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Beyond Ethics: Good News for Newt

By Adam Clymer
New York Times Service

NEWS ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON — If Newt Gingrich wins re-election as speaker of the House on Tuesday, two compelling reasons that have nothing to do with ethics will be critical.

The first is a view shared by Republicans of all ideological stripes that he has, over all, been a very effective leader for their sometimes disparate causes. He may be unpopular in the nation, but things are different in the Republican caucus.

The second is that there is no obvious, known quantity to succeed him if he goes, especially if he goes suddenly.

The availability of calm, likable Thomas Foley was a security blanket for Democrats in 1989 when they finally concluded that Speaker Jim Wright had to go.

Richard Armey of Texas, the majority leader, has a considerable following, but he has been a leader only two years and rubs many Republicans the wrong way. The same is true of Thomas DeLay of Texas, the No. 3 Republican.

In combination, these two factors may outweigh the doubts about Mr. Gingrich's veracity to the ethics committee and his use of tax-exempt contributions for political purposes. They are plainly more important than gratitude for his fund raising and election leadership, and more important than fear of how a powerful speaker could exact retribution from someone who voted against him.

So even though 18 Republicans have refused to commit themselves to voting for Mr. Gingrich, it seems more likely than not that he will have the 218 votes he needs to be elected by the House.

Mr. Gingrich's image in the nation may be one of an intemperate conservative, but his support among House Republicans does not break on ideological fault lines.

To conservatives, he counts as a success because he fashioned their agenda, brought them to power and got some central articles of faith, like welfare

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AFP

Mr. Gingrich plays the waiting game on the speakership. Page 3.

U.S. Concern Mounts Over 'Loose Nukes'

Impasse With Moscow Delays Removal of Georgian Fuel Cache

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

TBILISI, Georgia — The United States has been making a quiet effort to have a cache of nuclear material moved out of this volatile region of the former Soviet Union, according to American and Georgian officials.

But the operation to get the material out of Georgia, which is part of a broader program to stem the theft of nuclear-bomb ingredients from Russia and its neighbors, has thus far been thwarted by months of diplomatic impasse between Russia and the United States.

The effort, which was intended to be a model of three-way cooperation, has been the subject of intense negotiations between senior American and Russian officials for much of the last year. The United States had wanted to keep the operation secret, but Georgian officials now openly discuss their predicament.

"Indeed, we have several kilograms of uranium," President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia acknowledged in a recent interview. "We need to get rid of it."

"But we can't do it independently," he said, alluding to financial and technical constraints.

Stored in an obsolete nuclear reactor outside Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, the highly enriched uranium and spent reactor fuel would give an aspiring nuclear power a significant amount of the material needed to make a nuclear bomb.

The cache has been of growing concern to American officials, who fear it is vulnerable to theft by Iranian agents, terrorists from the neighboring secessionist Russian republic of Chechnya or arms traffickers.

Georgian officials disclosed that the material was virtually unguarded during the early 1990s, when war engulfed this newly independent Caucasian nation.

In recent years, several middlemen peddling nuclear material stolen from the former Soviet Union have been arrested in Europe. But there has been no confirmed case of countries or terrorist groups obtaining the ingredients for a bomb through theft.

The United States and Russia have publicly embraced the goal of controlling what some experts term "loose nukes." At a meeting on the subject last April in Moscow, Western leaders and President Boris Yeltsin pledged to work together to stem trafficking in nuclear materials.

But the Georgian reactor is a case study in how good intentions can be snarled by bureaucratic politics, foreign-policy concerns and environmental regulations.

Housed in a weatherbeaten building a 20-minute drive from Tbilisi, Georgia's reactor is an eerie monument to the lost days of Soviet science, when vast resources were channeled into nuclear research. On its inauguration in 1959, the research reactor was the pride of Georgia's Institute of Physics.

After the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in

See NUCLEAR, Page 7



Jasper Juinen/Reuters

Part of the Elfstedentocht pack passing a national symbol in Bidaard.

Europe's Freeze Revives Dutch Skate Marathon

Partying Breaks Out for 125-Mile Spectacular

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

LEEUWARDEN, Netherlands — In the black hours before dawn, in a blistering cold that has paralyzed much of Europe, the first phalanx of this country's fastest, hardiest or craziest skaters was loosed from giant cages for a gruesomely taxing race across cracked canals and rutted, frozen lakes.

The yelling, stomping competitors and 16,000 other skaters who followed them down the ice ignited an extraordinary national festival, during which normal life in the Netherlands scrapes to a halt and humanity pays its respects to blade runners and motion on ice. Even in Saturday's subfreezing temperatures, or perhaps especially, this is what the Dutch do for fun.

The Elfstedentocht, or Eleven Cities Tour, has the air of a chill Saturnalia that occurs only when nature gives its blessing. That happens when the weather is cold enough and the ice thus thick enough. The tour has been held only 15 times in this century.

The last was in 1986. The wait has been long. Thus the pandemonium when the decision to hold the event was announced — just Thursday morning, when the region's council of ice elders made its last measurements.

Less than 48 hours later, about half a million people had flocked to watch the 125-mile (200-kilometer) event from bridges and banks of canals in medieval towns such as Sneek, Franeker, Workum and Dokkum in the northern province of Friesland.

Waiting, much like cycling fans, for their heroes to whiz by, they stomped cold feet to blaring music, sang songs and downed tiny glasses of a sharp juniper liquor called Beerenburg and cups of a coarse pea soup called snert.

The crowdscapes were brightly dotted with thousands of identical orange skullcaps — orange is the national color — distributed by a national sausage company. More than 1,000 policemen on skates or on foot kept the mildly unruly and at least one naked person in line, but unpleasantness was rare. The hearty partying, which began Friday night, continued Saturday night on what are informally known as 11-pub tours.

Endless live television coverage has turned the Elfstedentocht into a truly national event. A thousand journalists were reportedly in attendance. Hovering press planes and helicopters pinpointed the front of the pack for fans

See SKATE, Page 7

In Russia, Kohl Predicts End to Feud Over NATO

By Michael Specter
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Expressing unusual confidence that it has finally become possible to resolve the biggest diplomatic chasm separating Russia and the West, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany has predicted that the standoff over NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe will end this year.

"I think that this year we will find a rational solution that will make NATO enlargement possible and will at the same time respect the security interests of all partners concerned," Mr. Kohl said at a news conference in Moscow after three hours of talks Saturday with President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Kohl said that differences of opinions remained and that he did not expect all problems to disappear overnight. "But we evaluated a couple of ideas, which I will discuss with my NATO colleagues over the next couple of days on the telephone," he said, adding that his first call would probably be to President Bill Clinton.

Saturday's meeting was the first Mr. Yeltsin had held with a Western leader since he underwent a heart bypass operation Nov. 5.

Mr. Yeltsin looked tired in television footage from the meeting, but Mr. Kohl described him as alert, fit and completely able to concentrate on details.

There are few touchier issues for Russia than the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include countries that were members of the Warsaw Pact. Russia is a severely weakened country that abhors its image as a fallen power. About two weeks ago, as

See NATO, Page 7

Still Within Reach of Russian Bear, Borderlands Seek Identities

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

KIEV — Five years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the half-dozen states that once formed its westernmost border have evolved into an uncertain buffer zone, torn between Europe and Russia.

From the Black Sea to the Baltic, the former Soviet borderlands are struggling to build economies and define political systems and national identities. More than any other part of the former Soviet bloc, these countries are nervous over how to assure their security between a Europe that is growing more cohesive and a Russia that remains suspicious and defensive.

The Soviet border that stretched across Europe for most of the last half-century is formally a relic, relegated to old maps and history books. But it remains a real divide.

To the west of that line, Russia's one-time satellites have cut links with Moscow and opted for a future with Western Europe. In general, they are scrambling to join NATO and the European Union, largely as guarantees against any eventual menace from Russia.

But east of the old Soviet border there is no such clear direction. The states of this region were more colonies than satellites of Moscow, and Russian influence remains too powerful to be excluded.

In Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Baltic states — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — Russian state television is still available. Ethnic Russian residents insist that Moscow again should rule these countries, and non-Russians voice fears that it might try to do so. In parts of the region, at bridges, airports and border posts, Russian troops still project Moscow's power.

Poland and its neighbors "are now beyond Russia's reach, and Russia effectively concedes that," said a Polish diplomat in the former Soviet Union.

But "this part of Europe is further from the traditions of the West, and has absorbed more from Russia, with its authoritarian traditions," he said. "It is an in-between place."

The shades of gray are varied. Belarus has the weakest sense of a national identity distinct from Russia. On early morning trains pulling into the capital, Minsk, Russian state-run radio is piped in to awaken passengers. Why not a Belarussian radio station? A conductor on one train shrugged. "Everybody speaks Russian," she said, "and people are used to getting their news from Moscow."

The Baltic states' national identities and attachment to the West are strong. All three seek to join NATO and the European Union. But their utter military vulnerability to Russia and Moscow's extreme sensitivity to any Western role in their security have kept the West from offering them any guarantees.

Governmental officials and political analysts in these six countries have voiced rising nervousness over security questions as NATO has moved to accept Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as members. They say that step could antagonize Russia and leave this region as a tense buffer zone in a renewed cold war.

The region's uncertainty is rooted in Russia's claims here. Over two centuries, Russian rulers from Catherine the Great to Stalin seized chunks of these lands and sent settlers and troops to establish a militarized cordon to protect against invasion from Europe or Turkey. As a result, roughly 20 percent of the 75 million people now living in these six countries are ethnic Russians, many of them from military families.

Having lost much of its military shield in the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia is acting to keep what it still has — bases in the enclave of Kaliningrad and in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. Like Americans who in the 1970s resisted returning the Canal Zone to Panama, many Russians argue that Moscow's

See BORDERLANDS, Page 7

China Mills Close a Chapter

Textile Workers Who Spun Revolution Lose Jobs

By Edward Cody
Washington Post Service

SHANGHAI — The textile workers of Shanghai have played a special role in the saga of modern China. Their labor helped fuel the country's industrial revolution. Their strikes, conspiracies and uprisings — portrayed by Andre Malraux in "Man's Fate" — helped get the Communist Party going in the 1920s.

But the rank-and-file glories immortalized by the French author have faded into the history books. Another, less romantic revolution has come along now. With China's move toward a market economy and the globalized entrepreneur's search for ever-cheaper labor, most of Shanghai's textile workers have found themselves out of a job.

The "iron rice bowl" that oppressed workers struck, fought and died for 75 years ago has become too expensive in a world of profit margins and mobile capital. Moreover, the Communist ideology that long protected Shanghai's proletarian heroes has gone out of fashion.

As a result, the textile mills that had been a mainstay of Shanghai's economy for more than a century are closing right and left. The traditional industry, which employed half a million Shanghai workers in the 1970s, has lost between 200,000 and 300,000 jobs in the past four years alone, according to an estimate from Deputy Mayor Zhao Qi Zeng. More are being laid off every month.

Along with the jobs, a chapter in the history of the Chinese revolution has been lost, one that rivals Mao Zedong's Long March of the 1930s. It is a chapter that Chinese schoolchildren still learn, but which seems to have little to do with their present lives under the "market socialism" instituted by the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping.

"There is nothing we can do about it," said Tian Yun Fei, 44, who lost her job at a satin garment factory in late 1995. "We have a market-oriented economy now. We just have to get on the track."

Many of the jobs lost by Shanghai textile workers have gone to eager replacements from rural areas in the surrounding Anhui Province. They work for less with fewer benefits and less job security. In a cruel irony, they have

See MILLS, Page 13

Newsstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Riels
Egypt	E£ 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

AGENDA



Ivan Milutinovic/Reuters

PROTEST ON WHEELS — A Belgrade woman flashing the Serbian nationalist sign Sunday during an anti-government cavalcade. Page 7.

Patriots a Step From Super Bowl

FOXBORO, Massachusetts (AP) — Curtis Martin burst across a mist-shrouded field Sunday and carried the New England Patriots into the American Football Conference championship game.

Martin slashed for 166 yards and three touchdowns, including a 78-yarder, as the Patriots shredded the Steelers' defense for a 28-3 victory.

The Patriots will play host next Sunday to Jacksonville, which upset Denver on Saturday, with the winner going to the Super Bowl. The Green Bay Packers also won. (Page 18.)

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For Peruvians, Prisons 'Worse Than Nightmare'

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

LIMA — When Jose Antonio Alvarez, a journalist, and his wife, Rosa, were arrested in 1992 on suspicion of being Marxist guerrillas, they entered a justice system where summary condemnation and brutal confinement were the norm. When she was released after a year, and he after four years, there were no apologies from the Peruvian government, no offers of reparations.

"I was essentially kidnapped for more than four years," Mr. Alvarez said. "Then, in the end, they said it was a mistake, and I should just get on with my life. There were never any charges against me. It was surreal. I lost part of my life."

That experience has been shared by hundreds of other Peruvians caught in President Alberto Fujimori's largely successful drive to defeat two guerrilla groups, Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. The harshness of the conditions inside Peru's prisons, where suspects arrested under the anti-terrorism laws can spend years without being formally charged, is one of the chief complaints of Tupac Amaru guerrillas holding 74 hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima.

The commandos are demanding that some 400 of their comrades, most being held in the same special prisons where the Alvarezes were detained, be freed in exchange for the hostages. The movement, known by its Spanish initials MRTA, refers to the prisons as "tombs."

Mrs. Alvarez said she was held in a cell that measured 6 feet (1.8 meters) by 6 feet. She was given one meal a day and received no medical attention for seven months, even though she was pregnant when she was arrested. Her daughter suffered a brain lesion at birth. Mr. Alvarez and two other men were in a similar-sized cell. He said the three shared two cement beds and were allowed out of the cell for only 30 minutes a day. "It was worse than a nightmare," she said.

In all of the special prisons, human-

See PRISONS, Page 9

Peru Plays Down The Hostage Crisis

As Peru's hostage crisis drags through its third week, President Alberto Fujimori has ordered his government to resume normal operations, determined to treat the episode as an isolated outbreak of violence rather than a national emergency.

Analysts said the government believed that time was on its side, and that if the Marxist guerrillas were given less attention, the advantage they had been able to seize in the battle for media attention would diminish. (Page 9)

Era of Concept-Baguette / **Fad Capitalizes on the Past**

The French Daily Bread Goes Retro

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

PARIS — There was a time when a baguette was a baguette. It was a long, thin, crusty loaf and it symbolized France. That time, comforting in its certainties, has passed. The country has entered the era of the concept-baguette.

At the Robineau bakery, the leeks protruding from shopping baskets, the oyster salesman across the street and the occasional surly aside sustain the reassuring illusion that Paris will always be Paris. But when the customers reach the counter, the illusion is shattered. They ask for a *retro* rather than a baguette.

A retro looks like a baguette, albeit one stunted and flattened.

But as the baker, Gerard Robineau, explains, the retro is also fermented longer, kneaded more lightly, lower on yeast, bereft of additives, and it is denser, tastier, longer-lasting and "more sort of creamy-gray inside than the old white baguette."

The idea behind the retro (whose full name is *retrodor*) is to make a baguette just as it was made in the good old days. These, in baguette lore, are said to have occurred in the 1930s, before a postwar fad for whiter, airier bread debased the product.

The bread is thus part of a vogue here for what Gerard Brouchoire, the director of the National Bread and Pastry Institute, calls "retro-innovation," the practice of capitalizing on a real or imagined past in order to make sales in an increasingly disorienting present.

THE technique involves taking something from the past with connotations of authenticity, wholesomeness or simply Frenchness. Then it is repackaged for a society in which the French, worried by an undifferentiated modern world, are casting around for symbols of tradition and the uniqueness of their *terroir*, or soil.

"Retro-innovation works because it plays into a growing need for identity," Mr. Brouchoire said.

That need is linked to the fact that France is changing fast. Close to 100 McDonald's hamburger restaurants opened here last year, bringing the total to almost 550. Italian *panini* — toasted sandwiches with mozzarella and olive oil — are all the rage.

The French malls are full of hypermarkets selling baguettes made from factory-produced frozen dough for about half the four francs (76 cents) charged for a standard baguette at a bakery.

It is in this disconcerting context that the concept-baguette, as the new loaves are known in the National Bread Institute, has begun to thrive. An example is the *baguette de campagne*, or country baguette.

With its added rye, longer fermentation and darker color, it is supposed to conjure up the days when farmers' wives baked their own bread. In fact, this rustic baguette never existed. Farmers' wives baked bulbous loaves weighing several pounds to last several days. Only retro-innovation brought the now thriving baguette de campagne into being.

The retro baguette — which is an old-style rather than a country loaf — was created by the Viron flour mills, based in Chartres, west of Paris.

Viron provides bakers who make the retro with a special flour, its recipe, and such marketing devices as red-and-white packages for the bread and posters. Over 150 bakeries now make the retro.

There are several competitors in the themed-baguette sector. The *banette* has pointed ends and a sprinkling of flour. The *baguepi* always comes in its own little package. All are the inventions of different mills and are supposed to conjure up the baguette of old.

JEAN-PIERRE Gisquet, a baker, dismissed the loaves as "products of a fad for the falsely old."

He has not changed his technique since he started baking in 1946. Plunging an old wooden baker's shovel deep into the oven to retrieve some rolls, he said, "I make my baguettes like they should be made, and now that's called retro."

But the concept-baguette has proved popular. The retro, for example, is widely seen as a big improvement on the increasingly tasteless baguette. The government has taken up the defense of traditional breads by declaring this week that any outlet that does not select its own flour and knead and bake on the premises must remove the sign "bakery." Up to 5,000 stores may be affected.

Despite their higher prices — generally, they cost about a dollar — the special baguettes have helped stop a fall in bread sales.

Individual consumption has now stabilized at around 160 grams a day, compared with a kilogram in 1900, Mr. Brouchoire said.

But what France do the concept-baguettes represent? At Mr. Robinean's bakery, sales of the retro are brisk. But the baker has also introduced Haagen-Dazs ice-cream, Coca-Cola and sandwiches that can be daubed in ketchup. Signs outside are in English, and they offer breakfasts of bacon and eggs.



Richard St. Germain

The idea is to make a baguette as it was before a postwar fad for whiter, airier bread. The practice takes something from the past, then repackages it for a society in which the French, worried by an undifferentiated modern world, are casting around for symbols of tradition.

In France, It's on Sale When the State Says So

By Anne Swardson
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Mark this down: The French government says holiday sales can now begin.

In France, the government not only owns the airline, runs the railroad and operates a bank, it also is in charge of post-Christmas sales.

Price-cutting after the holidays is common practice around the world, but here it is the political heirs of Louis XIV who determine when and how merchandise can be discounted.

By law, stores are allowed to offer merchandise below cost only twice a year — during the post-Christmas period and in the six-week summer sale season.

A law passed last year set even stricter terms for what constitutes a sale: The goods must have been bought by the store at least 30 days before, not brought in and instantly marked down.

The thousands of eager consumers who rushed into Paris department stores and boutiques Friday, as the official sale season kicked off on the ninth day of Christmas, have precisely six weeks — down from eight last year — to make their discount purchases.

About 2,000 inspectors from the Competition, Consumption and Repression of Fraud Directorate were at work in stores, making sure that the labels on sale products were for genuine discounts, that only previously offered merchandise was on sale and that the time limit had been adhered to.

In recent weeks, dozens of fines were issued to stores that started their sales too early. Violators of the starting date or merchandise rules can be fined $5,000 to $20,000.

"If a government inspector came in yesterday and we had articles on sale, we would have been charged a fine," said a spokeswoman for Le Bon Marche, a major department store.

The regulation of sales is just one visible example of how the French approach to capitalism diverges sharply from the approach taken by its Anglo-Saxon neighbors and allies.

This is a nation that has been brought up on state control of economic activity, from tariffs on canals in the 18th century to state-owned enterprises today. Sales have been regulated since 1906, when merchants were required to get authorization from the mayor to liquidate their inventories.

It also shows the relationship between the French government and the governed French: protective and paternalistic, with a healthy dose of favors for business thrown in.

The law "is to avoid too much competition between merchants," said Bernard Chartier of the city administration office in Paris, which is responsible for setting the kickoff date for the sale season.

The date is carefully selected in consultation with merchant and consumer associations, he said. This year, sales started Thursday in other regions of France and Friday in Paris; both were a week later than usual.

French consumer groups, not a strong lobby in any case, are focusing their efforts this sale season on making sure the items offered are really on sale and not shoddy merchandise brought in just for the discount period.

Little concern has been apparent over whether consumers should be allowed to pay less during the rest of the year if a retailer wishes to lower his prices. By some estimates, half of all French consumer purchases are made during the two sale seasons.

In a sense, the sale law fits with the general French tendency to do the same thing at the same time. A people who vacation only in August, and largely stay in France, are likely to have little complaint with doing their shopping all at once.

Expert shoppers are known to visit stores beforehand, try on merchandise, select the size and color they want; then on the morning of Day 1, they rush out with their goods.

Stores in Paris were mobbed Friday, with huge crowds amassing outside stores even before opening time.

At C&A, a midprice clothing chain, customers stood in line for 20 minutes at the cash register, holding huge baskets filled with clothing they were buying.

"We are anticipating about 100,000 people a day," compared with the usual 60,000, said Evelyne le Roux, a spokeswoman for Galeries Lafayette, one of the largest department stores in Paris. "We have sale merchandise in every department."

Some discounting is allowed during nonsale season, as long as items are not sold below cost. How can infractions be found out?

"If there is a suspicion, the inspector checks the wholesale bill," said a spokesman for Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the minister for small and medium-size businesses who sponsored the changes in the sale law.

It is hard to miss the kickoff of sale season. "The hunt is on!" screamed a large headline in France-Soir, an evening paper.

The media warned consumers not to get carried away just because prices were reduced.

But for anyone who somehow does not participate in this shopping ritual, the dates for the next sale season already have been set: June 27 to Aug. 7.

Deep Freeze Persists in Much of Europe

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Fresh snowfalls blanketed parts of Europe on Sunday, prolonging travel chaos and a deadly freeze, although elsewhere a thaw set in, bringing with it the threat of flooding as the grip of arctic weather eased.

The Continent's coldest spell in a decade claimed eight more lives, bringing the total in the last 10 days to more than 210.

Southern France was the worst hit, with authorities urging vacationers to delay their journeys home after bad weather closed several motorways and virtually sealed off ski resorts.

Several hundred travelers spent Saturday night in schools and town halls after the A20 motorway in the Limousin region was closed. Traffic restarted at dawn, but only on one lane.

In the Rhone Valley near Lyon in central France, fresh snowfalls Sunday seriously disrupted traffic on the A7 motorway toward Orange.

Farther south, three Pyrenees ski resorts were completely sealed off by heavy snowfalls. Three other resorts organized convoys of about 100 vehicles each to allow some skiers to leave.

Rail traffic was also disrupted with thick ice on power cables blocking the Marseille-to-Paris line and slower diesel trains replacing electric locomotives on the Bordeaux route.

Fresh snow also hit Belgium, where six people have died in the cold.

The homeless, the elderly, and those with too much seasonal spirit inside them have been the main victims of temperatures that plunged to minus 26 degrees Celsius (minus 15 Fahrenheit).

The death toll from the bad weather in Britain rose to 14 with the discovery of a man's body in the snow in the southern English county of Kent. He had disappeared after a night out with a friend.

British authorities have turned their attention to flood damage as a thaw raised temperatures. Fire brigades helped thousands of householders deal with burst pipes and flooded rooms.

Italy was bracing itself for more snow, cold and high winds Sunday and Monday, but forecasters did not expect temperatures to plummet to the levels of recent days, when four people died in subfreezing conditions.

Snow fell in Sardinia, and in Venice high waters rose another 16 centimeters (six inches). An exceptionally strong chill wind threatened Italy's northeast.

(Reuters, AP)



Bob Edme/The Associated Press

Vacationers making their way down from the ski resort of Gourette in the French Pyrenees on Sunday. Heavy snow has closed roads in the area.

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TRAVEL UPDATE

Chunnel Bus Traffic to Resume

LILLE, France (Reuters) — Bus traffic in the Channel Tunnel will resume Monday, seven weeks after a fire aboard a freight train injured 34 people and closed the link for two weeks, its operator Eurotunnel said.

The bus companies must reserve, a spokesman for Eurotunnel said. He added, "So as not to disrupt tourist traffic, we must plan things out."

Only trains carrying trucks with heavy goods are still unable to use the tunnel. Eurotunnel said it foresaw a return to full commercial operations around mid-May.

New Delhi Bans Public Smoking

NEW DELHI (AP) — The state government of New Delhi — one of the world's most polluted cities whose residents experience widespread breathing problems — has banned smoking in public places, newspapers reported.

The ban will cover all government offices, schools and colleges, hospitals, movie theaters, and buses and trains, according to state Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who announced the ban Friday night. Violators face fines of 100 to 500 rupees ($3 to $15). The ban will begin Jan. 26.

ValuJet's flights to West Palm Beach and Fort Myers in Florida have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, but the agency did not grant the airline's request to add five planes to its current fleet. ValuJet resumed flying Sept. 30, after being grounded following a crash May 11 in the Florida Everglades that killed all 110 people aboard. *(AP)*

American Airlines said it would renew its route between Long Beach, California, and Dallas/Fort Worth after having suspended it more than two years ago. Flights will start again Jan. 31. *(Reuters)*

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This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Finland, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Liechtenstein, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela.

TUESDAY: Belarus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine.

WEDNESDAY: Moldova.

THURSDAY: Burma, Panama.

SATURDAY: Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters, Bloomberg.

Flood Disaster Declared in U.S. West

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — President Bill Clinton has declared a major disaster in California and Idaho, as the western United States reeled from storms and floods that have killed at least 20 people and forced 100,000 from their homes.

Officials said Saturday that more than 1,000 homes were under water in central California and 450 more north of Sacramento. Preliminary damage estimates from six northern and central California counties, a small proportion of those affected, exceeded $50 million, officials said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones or their homes and businesses in these terrible floods," Mr. Clinton said in a statement released during his vacation in the U.S. Virgin Islands. His disaster declaration makes federal aid available to flood victims and local governments in 13 Idaho counties and 37 California counties.

Nevada, Oregon and Washington state have also been hard hit in a 10-day period by storms that caused widespread floods, mudslides and power outages.

The storms are estimated to have caused hundreds of millions of dollars of property damage and were blamed for the deaths of at least 20 people, most killed by drowning, by falling trees or in traffic accidents.

Dry weather across most of the West on Saturday allowed flood waters to recede and let evacuees return to clean up mud and debris in northern Nevada and northern California's wine country.

But the California Office of Emergency Services said more than 1,000 homes were under water in Stanislaus County in the fertile Central Valley where the Tuolumne River reached a record 14 feet (4.2 meters) above flood stage.

Up to 3,000 people were evacuated from the Modesto area of the county, which suffered its worst flooding in 40 years, but about 150 families were allowed to return later.

The state agriculture secretary, Ann Veneman, toured flooded Central Valley areas by helicopter, but said it would be difficult to assess farmland damage until the water receded.

In all, about 100,000 Californians remained evacuated, most of them from four towns north of Sacramento where the surging Feather River broke through a levee, flooding homes and farmland.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Algarve	10/50	10/50 r	16/61	13/55 sh
Amsterdam	1/34	-4/25 s	1/34	-1/31 s
Ankara	5/41	-2/28 pc	2/37	2/35 r
Athens	13/55	10/50 r	14/57	11/52 sh
Barcelona	7/44	3/37 r	8/46	4/39 c
Belgrade	2/35	-3/27 c	1/34	-3/27 sn
Berlin	-4/25	-7/20 pc	-1/31	-3/27 pc
Brussels	1/34	-5/24 s	1/34	-3/28 s
Budapest	-2/28	-6/16 c	-2/28	-6/22 pc
Copenhagen	-1/31	-3/27 pc	2/35	-1/31 pc
Costa Del Sol	9/48	7/44 pc	13/55	11/52 r
Dublin	4/39	0/32 pc	4/39	1/34 s
Edinburgh	4/39	-1/31 pc	3/37	-1/31 pc
Florence	4/39	4/39 sh	7/44	1/34 sh
Frankfurt	-3/27	-7/20 pc	-2/28	-4/25 pc
Geneva	0/32	-4/25 c	3/37	-2/28 pc
Helsinki	-8/18	-9/15 pc	-3/27	-12/11 sf
Istanbul	8/46	8/43 pc	8/46	7/44 sh
Las Palmas	18/64	15/59 pc	21/70	16/61 s
Lisbon	8/46	8/46 r	15/59	12/53 r
London	4/39	-3/27 s	3/37	-1/31 s
Madrid	3/37	-6/22 c	3/37	3/37 sn
Mallorca	5/41	4/39 r	8/46	6/43 c
Milan	1/34	-3/27 sn	3/37	-3/27 c
Moscow	-12/11	-19/-2 sn	-1/47	-14/7 sn
Munich	-1/31	-7/20 pc	1/34	-5/22 pc
Nice	9/48	7/44 r	10/50	4/39 sh
Oslo	-10/15	-13/9 pc	-8/18	-11/13 pc
Paris	-2/29	-5/22 c	-1/31	-4/25 pc
Prague	-8/22	-12/11 s	-3/27	-7/20 s
Reykjavik	2/35	-3/27 s	1/34	-1/31 pc
Rome	9/48	8/46 r	11/52	6/43 r
St. Petersburg	+1/-13	-11/13 c	-4/25	-9/16 sn
Stockholm	-3/27	-4/25 pc	-2/28	-6/22 pc
Strasbourg	1/34	-4/25 c	1/34	-3/27 c
Tallinn	-8/18	-9/16 pc	-4/25	-13/11 sf
Venice	2/35	-1/31 sf	3/37	-3/27 c
Vienna	-2/28	-8/18 pc	-1/31	-5/24 pc
Warsaw	-7/20	-10/16 pc	-4/25	-7/20 c
Zurich	1/34	-4/25 pc	2/35	-2/28 pc

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	23/73	11/52 s	23/73	11/52 s
Beirut	22/71	15/59 pc	24/75	16/61 c
Cairo	25/77	14/57 pc	27/80	14/57 s
Damascus	14/57	-1/31 s	18/64	8/46 pc
Jerusalem	13/55	2/35 s	18/64	8/46 pc
Luxor	28/73	12/53 s	28/73	12/53 pc
Riyadh	21/70	7/44 s	23/73	8/46 s

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Jetstream · Unseasonably Cold · Unseasonably Hot · Heavy Rain · Heavy Snow

North America
After weekend warmth, much of the eastern United States will continue to have seasonably cold weather Tuesday and Wednesday. Very cold arctic air will move out of western Canada, invading the Plains by Thursday. The western United States will still have dry weather.

Europe
Bitterly cold air will retain its icy grip on western Russia and northeast Europe through Thursday. Much of western Europe, including London, Amsterdam and Paris, will remain unseasonably cold though not as extreme as last week, as the region slowly moderates toward normal.

Asia
Mainly dry with near- to just above-normal temperatures in Beijing through Wednesday, followed by a cold shot Thursday. Seoul will have a moderating trend. Much of Japan, including Tokyo, will be unsettled and turning colder. Seasonable in Hong Kong with a shower possible each day.

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Anchorage	-18/0	-28/-14 s	-18/-1	-17/2 pc
Atlanta	11/52	2/35 pc	7/44	0/32 pc
Boston	7/44	-7/20 pc	1/34	-8/18 pc
Chicago	-4/25	-10/15 s	-3/27	-8/18 s
Dallas	3/37	-2/29 sn	2/35	-1/31 r
Denver	-3/27	-12/11 pc	0/32	-13/9 pc
Detroit	-3/28	-10/15 sf	2/29	-9/15 pc
Honolulu	27/80	19/64 s	28/79	19/64 pc
Houston	8/48	4/39 r	8/48	4/39 r
Los Angeles	17/62	8/46 pc	18/64	4/39 s
Miami	27/80	20/68 pc	28/78	18/64 pc
Minneapolis	-8/18	-17/2 pc	-8/22	-11/13 s
Montreal	1/34	-11/13 sn	-8/18	-17/2 pc
Nassau	27/80	18/64 s	28/78	22/71 pc
New York	7/44	-1/31 pc	3/37	-3/27 pc
Orlando	28/79	13/55 sh	29/71	12/53 pc
Phoenix	19/55	4/39 sh	12/53	2/35 sh
San Fran.	13/55	6/43 s	13/55	4/39 s
Seattle	8/43	-2/28 sn	7/44	2/35 pc
Toronto	-4/25	-10/11 sf	-4/22	-13/9 pc
Vancouver	9/43	3/35 sh	8/46	2/35 pc
Washington	7/44	-3/27 pc	3/37	-3/27 pc

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hce. W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Bali	34/93	22/71 pc	33/91	22/71 pc
Bangkok	30/86	18/64 s	29/84	18/64 pc
Beijing	-2/29	-11/13 s	-0/32	-9/16 s
Bombay	28/82	17/62 s	28/82	16/61 pc
Calcutta	23/73	11/52 s	23/73	11/52 s
Chiang Mai	29/84	17/62 s	28/82	17/62 pc
Colombo	29/84	21/70 pc	29/84	21/70 pc
Hanoi	22/71	17/62 pc	21/70	18/64 c
Ho Chi Minh	32/89	21/70 pc	30/86	21/70 pc
Hong Kong	20/68	16/61 pc	19/66	14/57 c
Islamabad	20/68	2/35 s	18/66	1/34 s
Jakarta	29/84	23/73 sh	29/84	24/75 t
Karachi	24/75	7/44 s	24/75	7/44 s
K. Lumpur	30/86	21/70 c	31/88	22/71 c
K. Kinabalu	27/80	22/71 pc	27/80	21/70 pc
Manila	29/84	18/64 pc	29/84	21/70 pc
New Delhi	25/77	5/41 s	26/79	4/39 s
Phnom Penh	29/84	23/68 pc	29/84	21/70 pc
Phuket	30/86	18/64 s	29/82	18/64 pc
Rangoon	30/86	18/64 s	28/82	18/64 pc
Seoul	-1/31	-7/20 pc	-2/29	-9/16 sn
Shanghai	4/39	-3/27 pc	4/39	-3/27 pc
Singapore	31/88	24/75 pc	29/82	22/71 pc
Taipei	19/66	13/55 pc	18/64	12/53 sh
Tokyo	10/50	3/38 sh	8/43	-1/31 c
Vientiane	21/70	16/61 pc	20/68	16/61 c

Africa

Algiers	13/55	2/35 pc	12/53	6/43 pc
Cape Town	23/84	19/66 s	26/82	16/61 s
Casablanca	12/53	9/48 sh	16/61	9/48 pc
Harare	28/82	11/52 pc	29/84	10/53 s
Lagos	30/86	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Nairobi	28/82	12/53 pc	29/84	13/55 pc
Tunis	17/62	8/46 s	13/55	7/44 t

Latin America

Buenos Aires	34/93	21/70 s	32/89	20/68 t
Caracas	29/84	23/73 pc	29/84	23/73 pc
Lima	28/82	19/66 s	27/80	21/70 pc
Mexico City	18/64	6/43 c	19/66	5/41 pc
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	22/71 pc	29/84	23/73 pc
Santiago	30/86	9/48 s	27/80	8/46 s

Oceania

Auckland	18/64	13/55 pc	22/71	14/57 pc
Sydney	28/82	21/70 pc	25/77	18/56 s

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THE AMERICAS

Gift Laws Take Glitter Out of Washington Party Whirl

By Karen De Witt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Early last year, Arianna Huffington invited Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama and several other legislators to a private dinner at her home in Wesley Heights here. Around a candlelit table, the guests dined on sorrel soup, rack of lamb and a quartet of sorbets.

The next day, Mrs. Huffington divvied up the cost of the meal and, in deference to both the spirit and the letter of a gift ban that Congress passed earlier this year, dutifully billed each congressional guest.

"I parceled out their part of the broccoli and lamb and charged them for the raw ingredients," she said. "It was about $26 or $27 apiece."

A year after federal lawmakers imposed on themselves one of the most restrictive codes of conduct ever and on the eve of the start of the first full Congress to live under those regulations, members of the House and the Senate are starting to feel the full bite of rules that bar them from accepting most gifts. The ban is an effort to limit the influence of lobbyists.

"In the end," said Mrs. Huffington, a conservative television commentator and the wife of Michael Huffington, a former congressman from California, "I think we'll find a way to deal with the new rule, and it will just become part of the social process."

The lawmakers' offices asked her to estimate the cost of the meal for each. None of the guests actually reimbursed Mrs. Huffington for the meal because she was a friend, and therefore exempt from the regulations, or, in the case of senators, because the meal cost less than $50, below the threshold for payment.

Still, Mrs. Huffington's actions indicated just how sensitive an issue the ban has become. Since it went into effect Jan. 1, 1996, the rules have affected more than the rituals of social and political gatherings like Mrs. Huffington's dinner party that are a quintessential part of this city.

They have also altered the traditional way of doing business in the nation's capital, forced a well-known restaurant, Le Mistral, to prepare to close its doors and others to consider drastic cutbacks, and left the diplomatic community bewildered over how to gain access and cull favors from the power brokers on Capitol Hill.

Even an updated Emily Post might have trouble directing one around the pitfalls of rules that impose a ban on gifts of any value accepted by House members, except in very few cases, and the $50 limit for senators.

When the ban was issued, a memorandum went out to lawmakers with the kind of case studies usually reserved for Harvard M.B.A. courses: Carla Congresswoman has been having lunch with Edna Executive periodically for 10 years, and Edna always picks up the tab using her corporate credit card. Aside from these lunches, they never socialize.

Can Carla still get her free lunch? She cannot.

Senate rules ban senators from charitable golf and ski trips if their expenses are picked up by someone else. They can accept free dinners and tickets to sporting events, but only if they cost less than $50.

House rules ban representatives and their staff members from accepting any gift, including invitations to lunch or dinner at someone else's expense, unless, as defined by the rules, that person is a relative, a personal friend or a sponsor of an exempt event, like a charitable function.

'To attach the exchange of food and drink to the problem of political corruption is like linking my cigarette smoking to the national health crisis.'

Under the House rules, according to a congressional memorandum, a lawmaker is permitted to accept a complimentary ticket from a charity, but there is a caveat. If a corporation buys tickets to the event, a lawmaker "may not accept the invitation of the corporation's CEO to sit at its table," the memorandum says.

Lobbyists who break the rules can be fined as much as $50,000.

Members of Congress face possible censure. So far, no member of Congress has been censured and no lobbyist has been fined, according to Ted Van Der Meid, chief counsel for the House ethics committee.

The situation has meant that this Christmas season, for the first time, members of Congress who were invited to elaborate parties had to ask their hosts who was paying for the event.

And where once wine, whiskey, fruit baskets or more lavish gifts were routinely dispensed by diplomats to lawmakers, whose salary is $133,600 a year, and their staffs at holidays, today the ban has accelerated a trend toward more modest holiday tokens: calendars and CD-ROMs about the particular country.

Peter Westmacott, counselor for political affairs at the British Embassy, said, "Gift ban or no gift ban, we have always felt that attracting the attention of members of Congress was easiest if we offered something that was in their professional interest, not bottles of whiskey."

Christopher Hitchens, a contributing editor at Vanity Fair who is known for giving some of the best parties in town, considers the ban "an affectation of integrity."

"To attach the exchange of food and drink to the problem of political corruption is like linking my cigarette smoking to the national health crisis," he said.

While there has been opposition to the rules within Congress, the subject is a sensitive one. During debate on the Senate bill last year, some lawmakers objected that the ban was too stringent.

Senator Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, who was majority whip and became majority leader, offered an amendment to raise the individual gift limit to $50 and allow a maximum of $100 in gifts from any one source. Gifts under $50 would not be counted against the $100 limit.

The amendment passed, but advocates of a tougher rule said it offered an enormous loophole, allowing senators up to $18,000 worth of meals or gifts from any one individual if that person bought a $49 meal for a senator every day of the year. They threatened to call for a debate on the issue and a recorded vote. Eventually a revised amendment requiring gifts above $10 to count toward the $100-a-person limit was passed.

Some lawmakers complain that the ban has had a chilling effect.

"You come to see me in Washington along with four or five friends," said Representative Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, one of the most vocal critics of the ban.

"I say I'm tied up all day with meetings, but why don't we get together. You buy me a hamburger for $2, and I have to decide whether you're a personal friend or a government official from my district. Otherwise, if you buy me that sandwich, you're guilty of a crime and I'm going to find myself being censured."

POLITICAL NOTES

Carrying on a Family Tradition

WASHINGTON — After graduating from the University of Michigan law school last spring, Harold Ford Jr., 26, has his first job: a seat in Congress, and, along with it, the distinction of being the youngest House member.

At any suggestion that his age and experience level might be liabilities, Mr. Ford bristles.

"Whether 26, 36 or 46, a congressman must be a freshman," said Mr. Ford, who represents the Ninth District in Tennessee and is the son of a congressman. "I have to think my learning curve will be less steep than others'. I have been training for this since I was a kid."

Though his opponents in the election tried to paint him as too young for the job, he has support for his point of view from a fellow Democrat, Representative Bill Clay of Missouri, whose own sons followed him into politics.

"It is not a question of his chronological age, but what he stands for," Mr. Clay said. "He has 18 or 19 years of sitting at the dinner table, and interacting with members of Congress."

Mr. Ford is the son of Harold Ford, the first black congressman from Tennessee and the engineer of what some state Democratic officials call the Ford Machine. That machine includes three of the senior Ford's brothers, who are elected state officials. Harold Ford Sr. retired last fall after 22 years in Congress.

The younger Ford said he was 4 years old when he realized he "wanted to be just like Dad." *(NYT)*

Birth Rates for Teenagers Drop

SMITH BAY, Virgin Islands — Birth rates among teenagers dropped in the early 1990s in states across the country, according to statistics released Saturday by the Clinton administration. But in his weekly radio address Saturday, taped Friday night while he was vacationing here on St. Thomas, the president still characterized the problem as an epidemic.

Thirty-seven states saw sustained drops in their teenage birth rates from 1991 to 1994, the statistics show. In 10 states, the rate dropped by more than 10 percent. In 21 others, it fell by 5 percent to 10 percent.

Mr. Clinton cited those statistics, a state-by-state breakdown of national findings released last fall, in his weekly radio address Saturday.

"What we're doing to prevent teen pregnancy as a nation is an example of how we can master many of the challenges of our time," he said.

While praising the reduction in birth rates among teenagers, Mr. Clinton nevertheless said the problem continued to deserve attention. "All of you need to help us send the strongest possible message: It's wrong to be pregnant or father a child unless you are married and ready to take on the responsibilities of parenthood," he said.

Overall, the national birth rate among young people aged 15 to 19 dropped by 8 percent from 1991 to 1995, the administration reported in October. In 1995, the birth rate for teenagers declined to 56.9 births per 1,000 girls, from 58.9 births the year before. *(NYT)*

Quote/Unquote

Jim Wright, who was forced to resign as speaker of the House because of a campaign led by Newt Gingrich, musing on a whether Mr. Gingrich should resign now because of a fund-raising scandal: "It might lance the boil in the same way that Mr. Nixon's leaving the White House made it possible for a more harmonious and peaceful period to emerge." *(NYT)*

Major Crime Falls Again, But Why?

By Fox Butterfield
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Serious and violent crime in the United States dropped in the first half of last year, continuing a pattern that began five years ago, according to preliminary statistics released by the FBI. The five-year decline is the longest in 25 years.

The figures, based on information reported to the FBI by local police departments, showed that the national crime rate decreased 3 percent in the first six months of 1996, led by a 7 percent drop in murders.

The news was greeted with applause by experts, many of whom have been reluctant until now to believe that the drop in crime figures was more than a short-term statistical aberration.

But both the length of the decline and the fact that the biggest drop came in homicides, the most serious crime, appeared particularly significant to the specialists.

"I have been a skeptic," said Franklin Zimring, a leading criminologist and director of the Earl Warren Legal Institute at the University of California at Berkeley. "But now, because of the length of the decline, its magnitude and the number of places it is occurring, I think I am experiencing a foxhole conversion."

Alfred Blumstein, a professor of criminology at Carnegie Mellon University, said the causes of the decline in the crime rate were complex and hard to calculate in isolation. Some of the decrease, he said, could be attributed to more police officers on the streets and to the Brady law, which mandates a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases.

But, Mr. Blumstein said, "I suspect it also has to do with the revised, more aggressive tactics" being used by the police in a number of large cities, where police officers have made concentrated efforts to get handguns off the streets and to take them away from young people.

In fact, the figures that were to be released Sunday show that the U.S. cities with populations of more than 1 million recorded the largest decline in overall crime — 6 percent in the six months.

Cities with populations of 500,000 to just under 1 million had no change in their crime rates, while smaller cities showed declines of 1 percent to 4 percent. Rural counties recorded a 3 percent drop and suburban law-enforcement agencies reported a 1 percent decrease.

The biggest cities tend to be "more sophisticated and pick up on new police tactics more quickly," Mr. Blumstein said. And they also have the resources to move faster with new policing strategies.



Win McNamee/Reuters

SOME VACATION — A well-armed President Clinton searching for a wayward ball at a golf course on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

Egypt Not Bomb Source, Ministry Official Asserts

Reuters

TUNIS — Egypt denied on Sunday that letter bombs mailed to the United States came from Egypt and said there was no need for a U.S. investigation in Egypt.

"The Egyptian security service has a very high expertise and has no need for assistance," Major General Raouf Menawi, Egyptian Interior Ministry spokesman said in Tunis.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation says eight letter bombs intercepted in the United States on Thursday and Friday were mailed from Egypt.

"We totally reject such talk," General Menawi said, adding that "it is not that easy" for such letters "to pass through the fingers of Egyptian security."

He said modern technology made it easy to forge postmarks. Egyptian security services were investigating the matter, he added.

Susan Lloyd, an FBI spokeswoman, said in Washington on Friday that the FBI had asked its legal attaché in Egypt to travel to Alexandria — the postmark on some of the letter bombs.

The attaché, Alfred Finch, said in the Egyptian capital on Sunday that the FBI had been in touch with the Egyptians since Thursday night. "We're just cooperating with Egyptian officials in an investigation being done by Egyptian authorities," he said.

"We are in no need for help from anybody," General Menawi said. "We do not accept any guardianship or interference. We have an agreement for security cooperation with the United States, but that an investigating team be imposed on us — we can't accept that."

Five of the letter bombs were found in Washington and three in the vicinity of the federal penitentiary at Leav-enworth, Kansas. The Washington bombs were addressed to the offices of Al Hayat, a newspaper leased to a member of the Saudi royal family. None of the bombs exploded.

■ Bombs Seem to Be of Semtex

The letter bombs appear to be made with Semtex, a military-grade explosive widely used among international terrorists, federal law enforcement sources told The Washington Post.

Authorities have few clues as to who sent the bombs, which they said were not sophisticated. "We're in the very, very early stages, and we are still looking at a lot of questions," an FBI aide said.

Gingrich Plays A Waiting Game

Aides Predict Easy Re-election

By John E. Yang
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, has told Representative Matt Salmon, Republican of Arizona, that he has not ruled out stepping aside until after the vote on his punishment for violating House rules, Mr. Salmon said Sunday.

Aides to Mr. Gingrich denied that the speaker was considering taking that course and confidently predicted that he would be re-elected when the new Congress convened Tuesday.

Mr. Salmon said that Mr. Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, made the comment during a telephone conversation Friday. He said that Mr. Gingrich phoned to discuss the second-term conservative's call for Mr. Gingrich to give up the speakership until his ethics case was resolved so as not to divert attention from the Republican agenda.

Speaking on ABC television of the possibility that Mr. Gingrich would temporarily step aside, Mr. Salmon said, "He did tell me that was something he would not completely rule out," and added: "He said he was keeping his options open and that that still might be a possibility."

Aides to the speaker reacted swiftly. "Newt plans to run for speaker, be elected and serve out his term," said Tony Blankley, Mr. Gingrich's press secretary.

Representative Scott Klug, Republican of Wisconsin, a fourth-term moderate, said he would urge Mr. Gingrich to put off the vote for speaker until after a vote on his punishment. On CNN, Mr. Klug said he had not decided whether to support Mr. Gingrich without knowing the ethics panel's proposed sanction.

Mr. Salmon, who said he would vote for Mr. Gingrich's re-election, stressed that his position was not directed at Mr. Gingrich personally, but at removing hindrances to the party's agenda.

Representative Michael Forbes of New York, the only House Republican to say publicly that he would not back Mr. Gingrich on Tuesday, used a similar argument to explain his position.

"Should Newt Gingrich retain the speakership, he will be the issue," Mr. Forbes said, "rather than, obviously, this worthwhile agenda that we Republicans in the House want to pursue."

The House Republican conference chairman, John Boehner of Ohio, said on NBC that he could not predict how many Republican lawmakers might join Mr. Forbes in not voting for Mr. Gingrich.

But he said it would be fewer than 20, the number of defections that could jeopardize Mr. Gingrich's bid to become the first Republican re-elected speaker in 68 years.

With Mr. Gingrich's re-election looking increasingly likely, Democrats sought to focus attention on the House ethics committee's public hearing on the speaker's punishment, which could come as soon as Friday. They hope the session will produce new information damaging to Mr. Gingrich.

On NBC, the House minority whip, David Bonior, a Michigan Democrat and the speaker's chief House antagonist, predicted that Mr. Gingrich's case would be referred to the Justice Department, either by the ethics committee as part of its recommended punishment or by an individual lawmaker, and that the speaker would eventually resign.

"I don't think he's going to finish," he said.

Away From Politics

• **The nation's abortion rate** has dropped to its lowest level in nearly two decades, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say. Twenty-one of every 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 had an abortion in 1994 — the smallest number since 1976. While anti-abortion groups say more women are learning about alternatives to the procedure, abortion-rights groups contend the decline was due to harassment by anti-abortion activists and a lack of abortion services. *(AP)*

• **O. J. Simpson's civil trial** was to resume Monday, with plaintiffs' attorneys challenging an expert witness who said a picture of Mr. Simpson wearing expensive Italian shoes had probably been faked. A source familiar with the plaintiffs' case said they would probably introduce a second picture showing Mr. Simpson wearing the shoes that they say are identical to the ones that left a trail of bloody footprints at the place where Mr. Simpson's former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman were slashed to death. *(Reuters)*

• **Rabies among raccoons** is spreading from the East Coast into the Midwest, the government has warned. A rabid raccoon was captured in May in Poland, Ohio, three miles from the Pennsylvania line, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. *(AP)*

• **Responding to pressure** from relatives of TWA Flight 800 victims, the Suffolk County medical examiner has begun releasing autopsy reports, although he says he does not understand why relatives would want the "chilling documents." *(AP)*

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INTERNATIONAL

Fueling Arafat Demands: Israeli Divisiveness

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — It has been three months now since the word went out from Jerusalem and Washington that an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from most of Hebron was "imminent."

That, paradoxically, may be the reason it has taken so long. Because for Yasser Arafat, a signal that the other side was ready to deal was a signal to get to work.

Within weeks of the October summit meeting in Washington, at which the "intensive and urgent" new talks were begun on Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went from haughtily predicting a quick deal on his own terms to the humiliating position of waiting day after day for a nod from the Palestinian leader to seal a deal that a growing number of his conservative government regarded as a sellout.

In the end, Mr. Netanyahu's terms for withdrawal were almost the same as those proposed by the Labor government he succeeded in May.

But now it was Mr. Arafat — backed by the Palestinians, the Arabs and much of the world — who took the haughty tone, telling the American mediator, Dennis Ross, "There are more burning issues than signing the agreement."

It was a bold and dangerous ploy. The issues Mr. Arafat spoke of were nothing less than a commitment from Mr. Netanyahu to comply with far more difficult provisions of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements than Hebron — namely, those calling for the staged withdrawal of the Israelis from much of the West Bank beyond the Palestinian towns.

Mr. Arafat's demand has put the entire Hebron agreement in danger with the Israeli cabinet, where one minister after another has declared opposition to a deal that includes further troop withdrawals. Although a pullback from Hebron does not technically require

NEWS ANALYSIS

government approval, Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to bring his first Palestinian agreement before his coalition.

In failing to sign, Mr. Arafat was also defying the Americans. Mr. Ross came to Israel on Dec. 21 armed with letters from President Bill Clinton and intent on moving past Hebron. Though he maintained his tactful public silence, his expression grew grimmer after each session with Mr. Arafat.

But then brinkmanship has always been a primary tool for Mr. Arafat. In the Israeli-Palestinian equation, he has never had much military or economic leverage. He has had no constant international patron, no real skill for getting his message out over the media, not even wholehearted support from the other Arabs.

What he does have is three decades of experience in exploiting the slightest advantage, and, unlike the ideologically divided Israelis, a clear notion of his goal — a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Arafat has also had the advantage that it is Mr. Netanyahu who has been on trial, not he. The conservative prime minister was elected on a platform that sharply criticized the Israeli-Palestinian agreements of 1993 and 1995, known as the Oslo accords, but at the same time pledged to comply with them. Mr. Arafat, by contrast, was a certified partner in the peace.

Thus, both in Israel and abroad, everything Mr. Netanyahu did and said was scrutinized for a sign. And in the first six months he managed to please no one: neither his conservative constituents, who did not find a solid commitment to expand what they call the "Land of Israel," nor among supporters of the peace, who viewed with anxiety the growing frustration of Palestinians and neighboring Arabs.

Mr. Netanyahu has argued, with justice, that the Labor government was at least as delinquent in complying with the Oslo accords. The very first Israeli obligation, the release of female Palestinian prisoners, has never been fulfilled, nor has a "safe passage" road to connect the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

But Mr. Arafat was largely prepared to ignore these oversights in the faith that Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor leader, shared his commitment. Mr. Netanyahu was given no such leeway by Mr. Arafat or the world.

In the explosion of violence that followed the opening last September by Israel of a new tourist tunnel exit near Muslim shrines in Jerusalem, it was Mr. Netanyahu who bore the brunt of international reproach. And when a soldier with a history of mental problems opened fire Wednesday on the Arab market in Hebron, the Israeli clamor for greater security for the handful of Jews in the city came to sound even hollower.

The problem for Mr. Netanyahu, and the two Labor prime ministers before him, was that, unlike the Palestinians, the divided Israelis have never shaped a consensus on their goal. Thus Hebron became not only a step on the way to peace, but a test of the entire peace.

Contrary to the new Israeli government's perception that Mr. Arafat would be overjoyed once it gave way on Hebron, the Palestinian leader in fact soon demonstrated that he views the city not as an end in itself, but as a way station on the road to Palestinian statehood.



Sven Nackstrand/Agence France-Presse
Mr. Netanyahu updating Israeli business leaders Sunday on Hebron.

In any event, most of the city is effectively under Mr. Arafat's control, since the Palestinian Authority dispenses most services, and the Palestinian police maintain a covert control.

Moreover, Palestinians in Hebron and elsewhere have rallied behind his refusal to take the city without exacting some guarantees for the future. Their fear has been that once Mr. Netanyahu withdrew from Hebron, there was no guarantee that he would, or could, go beyond.

In the end, probably before long, Mr. Arafat will give way, as will the Israeli cabinet. For one thing, neither side can afford to defy the Americans to the end.

But perhaps more important, the last seven months have demonstrated that the Oslo process has its own inherent pace. Mr. Netanyahu has learned the price of trying to stall it, and Mr. Arafat has learned that the Israelis can only move so fast in their tortuous search for consensus.

Israel Again Hits South Lebanon

Agence France-Presse

TYRE, South Lebanon — Israel launched an air raid Sunday on what it called a Hezbollah guerrilla position near Tyre after three Israeli soldiers in a tank were slightly wounded by mortar fire in the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in southern Lebanon, sources said.

An Israeli fighter plane fired two air-to-ground missiles around the village of Zibkin, 12 kilometers (seven miles) south of Tyre, the Lebanese police said. No one was hurt, they added.

The Hezbollah militia took responsibility for the attack on the Israelis, which came after two straight days of Israeli air raids on targets in southern Lebanon.

Secret Meeting At Israeli Border Yields No Deal

Reuters

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, met secretly Sunday but failed to break the deadlock on a self-rule agreement for Hebron.

News of the four-hour meeting at the Israeli-Gaza Strip border leaked out hours after it ended at 6 A.M. Mr. Netanyahu said he had thought it would help build confidence if he and Mr. Arafat avoided the media spotlight.

Despite the failure to complete an accord, both sides reported progress. The American envoy on Middle East peace, Dennis Ross, who took part, had been scrambling to arrange such a meeting in hopes of ironing out a deal on the West Bank city.

"I met with Yasser Arafat at the Erez junction," Mr. Netanyahu told business leaders Sunday afternoon in Tel Aviv. "We are making progress, but we still haven't reached full agreement on all the issues."

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat said: "An Arafat-Netanyahu summit took place at Erez from 2 A.M. to 6 A.M. Both leaders discussed all disputed issues, but the leaders were unable to bridge all gaps."

"Contacts and efforts will continue until we close a deal," he added.

An agreement would give Palestinians self-rule in most of Hebron, home to 100,000 Arabs and 400 Jews. Security issues and other concerns over the last 10 months have delayed the Israeli handover.

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EUROPE

U.S. Protests to Georgia Over Envoy's Fatal Car Crash

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has strongly protested to the government of Georgia, the former Soviet republic, over the behavior of one of its top diplomats here that resulted in the death of a teenage girl, American officials said Sunday.

The girl died when Gueorgui Makharadze, 35, the second-ranking Georgian diplomat here, allegedly drove his car at an extremely high speed under the influence of alcohol through a crowded Washington intersection, crashing into another vehicle and catapulting it into the air to crush a third car in which the girl was a passenger.

American officials said that the State Department would ask the Georgian government to waive Mr. Makharadze's immunity and let him face criminal charges once the local prosecutor decided to pursue them. But it would be up to the Georgian government to waive immunity, the officials cautioned, adding that such a waiver was extremely rare.

Under the international rules governing diplomatic immunity, the United States can expel foreign diplomats unilaterally, but not incarcerate, prosecute or sue them. Citizens — in this case the family of Joviane Waltrick, the 16-year-old girl who died in the accident Friday — can try to sue the government of Georgia for damages, the officials suggested, but not Mr. Makharadze himself.

State Department officials spoke to the Georgian ambassador, Tedo Djaparidze, on Saturday, and the American ambassador in Tbilisi, William Courtney, spoke to the Georgian Foreign Ministry, to protest Mr. Makharadze's behavior and to ensure that Georgian officials understand the seriousness of the incident. The Georgian president, Eduard Shevardnadze, who has close ties to Washington, has spoken to his ambassador here to express his concern, officials of both countries said Sunday.

A spokesman for the Georgian Embassy said that Mr. Makharadze had spoken to Washington detectives as part of a "preinvestigation conversation," and raised the "possibility of brake failure."

"You can imagine how horrible he himself feels about all this," the spokesman said. "We are all, from President Shevardnadze on down, most regretful about this very unfortunate accident and concerned to extend condolences to the family and to everyone involved."

Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said that under the terms of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, a host country cannot remove the immunity of a diplomat even in the case of a criminal offense.

Meanwhile, the mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, has asked the State Department to act against two diplomats attached to the United Nations, one from Russia and one from Belarus. The New York police say these diplomats were drunk and attacked policemen who were ticketing their car for being too close to a fire hydrant.

The Russian government has protested strongly to Washington about the behavior of the New York City police and called in the American deputy chief of mission in Moscow to protest, charging that police broke the arm of the Russian diplomat as they dragged him from the car, which displayed diplomatic license plates, U.S. officials said.

"In this case we have to see the facts before making a judgment," Mr. Burns said Sunday. The State Department is awaiting a New York City police report on the incident that is said to contain statements from more than a dozen witnesses.

Officials said that the State Department had a range of options, from doing nothing to expelling the diplomats. Washington could also request an apology from the diplomats and their governments, or, as is likely in the Georgian case, ask the governments to waive the immunity of their diplomats.

French Troops Kill 10 in Central Africa

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BANGUI, Central African Republic — French troops killed at least 10 Central African Republic Army mutineers Sunday in helicopter-led reprisal raids after the killing of two French officers on a multinational mediation mission.

The French Defense Ministry in Paris accused mutineers of shooting the two unarmed officers in cold blood Saturday. It said that the raids, which also used tanks and armored personnel carriers, had been carried out in self-defense.

The ministry said it was sending 300 elite troops to Bangui to back the 2,000-member force already in place as part of French support for the government of President Ange-Felix Patasse.

A ministry spokesman said 10 mutineers were killed and 30 taken prisoner.

Spokesmen for the mutineers put the death toll among their ranks at 21 and said that 11 civilians had also been killed around their headquarters in the populous southern district of Petevo.

Witnesses said French helicopter gunships had fired on the mutineers' command posts in the Kassai army camp and other areas of Bangui under their control in an operation that began in the middle of the night.

Calm returned to the capital later Sunday, but residents reported an exodus of civilians from rebel areas.

"The aim of this French operation was solely an act of self-defense against two particularly cowardly murders," the Foreign Ministry said in Paris.

"Our aim is not to put down the mutineers; our aim is to ensure that the Central African Republic can continue its democratic process," a spokesman told Radio France International.

The Central African Republic is in the grip of the third army revolt within a year. French troops, who are in the former colony under a defense pact, intervened to keep Mr. Patasse in power during the second revolt, in May.

The Defense Ministry in Paris said the two French soldiers killed Saturday had been ambushed by mutineers while with a mediating team led by officers from Chad and Burkina Faso.

Witnesses said three civilians were killed Saturday when French troops and mutineers clashed in Bangui after civilians supporting the mutineers tried to move toward the city center.

The French Defense Ministry said that AK-47 rifles, machineguns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers were seized in the operation Sunday.

"There were no dead among the French forces, who remain particularly determined and vigilant," the ministry said.

The latest revolt began Nov. 16. The first was in April.

(Reuters, AFP)

Fewer Journalists Were Killed in '96, Press Institute Reports

The Associated Press

VIENNA — A decline in the number of journalists killed was one of the few bright spots for press freedom worldwide in 1996, a research group said Sunday.

The International Press Institute said 38 journalists were killed in 1996, down from 52 in 1995. Almost half of last year's killings occurred in just two countries: war-torn Algeria, with 11, and crime-plagued Russia, with seven, the report said.

Aside from the killings, journalists in many countries faced harassment and intimidation from authorities as well as from drug and crime gangs.

In Eastern Europe, "countries emerging from totalitarian Communist rule fell back once again into old habits," the report said. "The Croatian and Serbian leaders have crushed virtually all critical voices — especially in the electronic media."

Mexico had one of the year's most gruesome killings: the Dec. 6 murder of Yolanda Figueroa, her husband and three children. She had written a book on the Gulf cocaine cartel that blamed government corruption for delaying the arrest of a key drug lord.

In Ireland, a reporter covering Dublin's underworld, Veronica Guerin, was killed on June 26. Even in Sweden, which boasts the world's oldest constitutional press-freedom guarantees, three journalists covering the country's biker wars were forced into hiding and an anti-racist newspaper came under attack from extremists.

Adam Feinstein, editor-in-chief of the IPI World Press Freedom Review, said: "The need for vigilance has never been greater."

Balance Shift Seen in Cyprus Missile Deal

Reuters

NICOSIA — The decision by Cyprus to buy surface-to-air missiles could result in a dramatic shift in the military balance on the island, already one of the most heavily militarized areas of the world, diplomats said Sunday.

The planned acquisition from Russia of the S-300 system, with a 150-kilometer (90-mile) range, is the first step by the Cypriot government toward building a credible air defense system.

Diplomats said the missiles would neutralize the air superiority Turkey has had here since 1974, when its troops invaded the northern third of the island after a short-lived coup engineered by the military then ruling Greece.

"Basically it can lock onto Turkish planes and take them out in Turkish airspace, which is a significant change" over the equipment the Greek Cypriots currently have, a diplomat said.

The deal for the missiles was concluded over the weekend, but it was unclear when the missile air defense system would be put into place.

The agreement has raised concern in Ankara. The Turkish defense minister, Turhan Tayan, said the "situation will undermine peace in the region," the Anatolian News Agency in Turkey reported.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Israeli Weighs Swiss Reprisal

JERUSALEM — An Israeli official said Sunday that he was weighing recommending that all Jews withdraw their assets from Swiss bank accounts as a protest over Switzerland's rejection of a request that it create a fund to compensate Holocaust survivors.

The official, Abraham Burg, president of the Jewish Agency, the quasi-official organization in charge of immigration to Israel, said he was "thinking of recommending to Jewish organizations that they withdraw their investments from Swiss banks."

The possible reprisal would be in response to comments by President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz of Switzerland, who described as "blackmail" a request to create a compensation fund from the deposits believed to have been left in Swiss bank accounts by people who eventually were exterminated in the Holocaust.

Mr. Burg said Mr. Delamuraz had justified Switzerland's refusal to set up such a fund before the facts were established on possible Swiss responsibility.

Last week, Mr. Delamuraz said, "Such a fund would be considered an admission of guilt," and added: "It's nothing more than a ransom and blackmail." He later apologized. *(AFP)*

Havel Is Married in Prague

PRAGUE — President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, who is recovering from lung surgery, was married over the weekend in a private civil ceremony.

Mr. Havel, 60, and Dagmar Veskrnova, 43, a leading Czech stage actress, were married at a municipal hall on Saturday, the president's spokesman, Ladislav Spacek, said.

Mr. Havel had a malignant tumor and half his right lung removed Dec. 2. He left the hospital on Dec. 27, but has not yet returned to work.

The couple were accompanied by Miss Veskrnova's daughter, Nina, and two witnesses when they were married shortly before noon, Mr. Spacek said. The marriage is the second for both. Mr. Havel's first wife, Olga, died a year ago. *(AP)*

Bonn Finds Cash for Fighter

BONN — Germany's coalition has hammered out an agreement in principle that secures financing for the four-nation Eurofighter project to go ahead this year, the weekly Welt am Sonntag reported Sunday.

Under the deal, an extra 2 billion Deutsche marks ($1.3 billion) will be found for development of the fighter aircraft from 1998 to 2001, with half coming out of the existing defense budget and half from a special Finance Ministry allocation, the paper said.

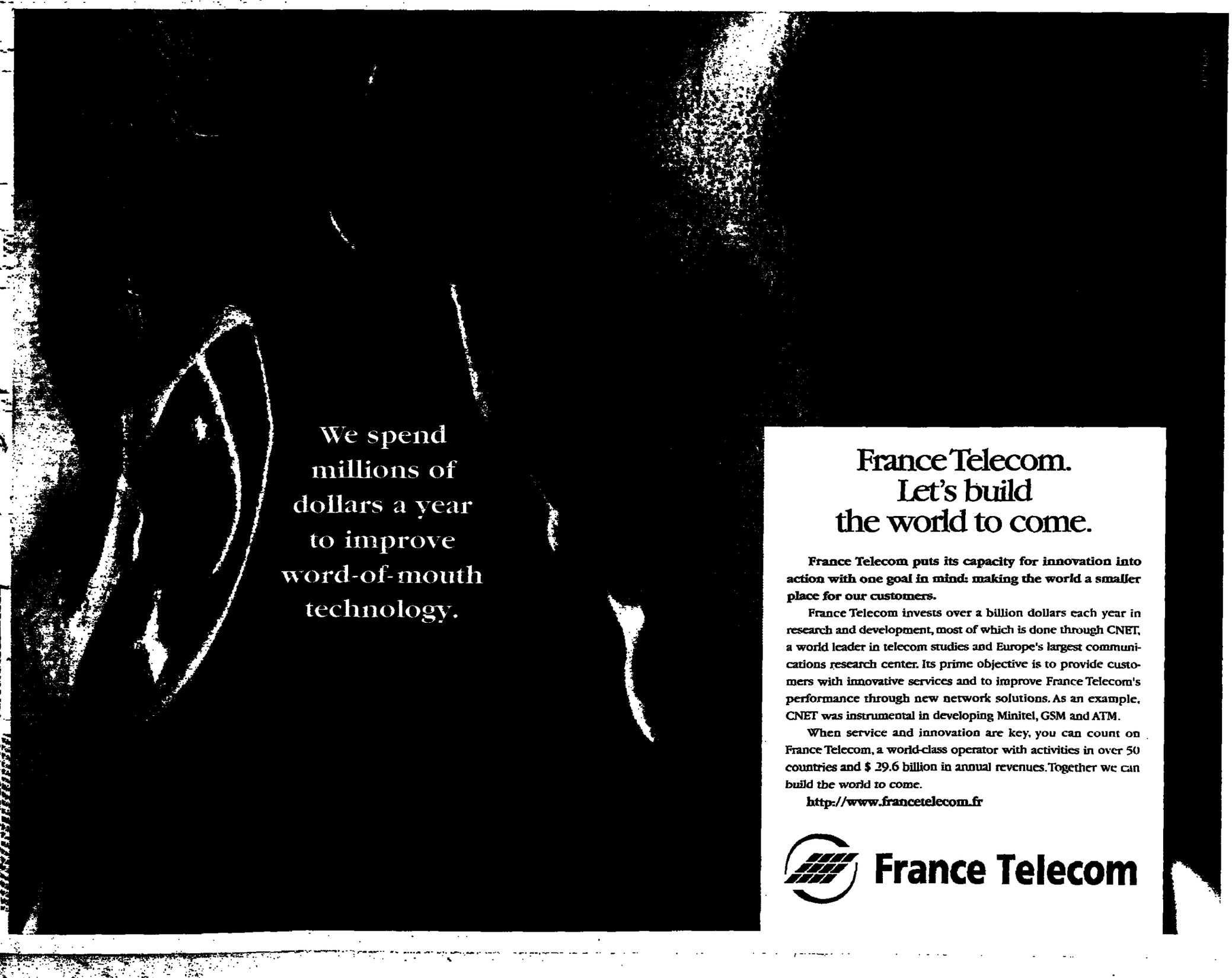
A final decision on the project would be made by the end of March, the report said.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said that he was not aware of any agreement, but that Defense Minister Volker Ruehe was confident one would be reached before April.

Until now, the Defense Ministry had allocated just 2.8 billion DM for the project. Daimler-Benz Aerospace had been saying it needed 4.8 billion DM. *(Reuters)*

For the Record

Russian troops have completed their withdrawal from Chechnya, the Russian Interior Ministry told the Interfax news agency Sunday. *(AFP)*



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Singapore Is Resisting The Influence of China

No Desire to Become Beijing Satellite

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

NEWS ANALYSIS

SINGAPORE — Since the end of the Cold War, Singapore — the only country with an ethnic Chinese majority in Southeast Asia — has developed increasingly close ties with China.

It has major investment and trade with the mainland, while Beijing's Communist rulers frequently send delegations to Singapore to learn how the island-state maintains one-party dominance of government and a booming free-market economy.

In some ways, China's great experiment with "a socialist market economy" that combines capitalism with political control is Singapore writ large.

Yet on their frequent visits to China, Singapore's leaders — many of whom speak Chinese — insist that official talks are conducted through an English-language interpreter. And when Beijing staged missile tests and large-scale military exercises near Taiwan ahead of the Taiwan's presidential elections in 1996, Singapore was one of the few countries in Southeast Asia to warn publicly against the use of force.

The point is not lost on China or on Singapore's neighbors.

Singapore's "foreign-policy equilibrium is seriously threatened by China's increased assertiveness on East Asia's strategic stage," said Tim Huxley, director of the department of Southeast Asian studies at the University of Hull in England. "Singapore's ethnic composition and strong economic links with China could leave the city-state dangerously exposed in an increasingly hostile, anti-Chinese regional environment."

As China emerges as a major power, Singapore's government is stepping up its efforts to prove that it will never allow the emotional tug of Chinese language and culture to turn Singapore into an offshoot of the Chinese mainland.

The issue emerged as a major point of contention in the general elections in Singapore last week, when the government accused an ethnic Chinese opposition candidate, Tang Liang Hong of the Workers' Party, of espousing policies to turn the island into a Chinese state.

Since Singapore's independence in 1965 — which was preceded by violent race riots — the governing People's Action Party has insisted that English be the country's common language. The policy is designed to ensure that all races — Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians — have equal opportunities in education and jobs.

Ethnic Chinese account for just over 77 percent of Singapore's population, while Malays make up 14 percent and Indians 7 percent.

"China will grow stronger over the next 20 years, and Chinese will become an important language internationally," said Goh Chok Tong, an ethnic Chinese who is Singapore's prime minister. "Unless we take a clear stand now, there will be a powerful temptation for a Chinese electorate to push for a more prominent role for Chinese language and culture. This will be a very serious problem for Singapore. We are not a Chinese country, and we must never allow Chinese chauvinists to turn us into one."

Mr. Tang of the Workers' Party has denied being a Chinese chauvinist, and each side has threatened to sue the other for defamation.

The debate has struck a chord elsewhere in Southeast Asia, where Singapore — with a population of just 3 million — is dwarfed by its neighbors, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Those countries have a combined population of nearly 300 million, most of whom are of Malay stock, although ethnic Chinese minorities have a disproportionately large influence in trade and commerce.

Indonesia and the Philippines are suspicious of China's long-term intentions toward the region, and both Malaysia and the Philippines have conflicting claims with China to ownership of some of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Singapore occupies a key strategic position on the Malacca Strait, the main maritime channel for ships sailing between the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Lee Kuan Yew, another ethnic Chinese who is Singapore's senior minister, warned during the election campaign that if Singapore — which currently allows U.S. military forces access to its bases — became a Chinese state, it would invite interference not just from neighbors but from outside powers wary of China's influence.

"A lot of countries will want to interfere, and these will not be just our neighbors in the region," Mr. Lee said. "Big countries in the international community will not allow a China base in Southeast Asia."



Toru Yamanaka/Agence France-Presse

SHOWING OFF HANDIWORK — Some of the 6,000 finalists in the 33d calligraphy contest displaying their creations Sunday in Tokyo. Thousands of children from all over Japan entered the annual event.

North Koreans Revert to Shrill Tone

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — While North Korea raised eyebrows and hopes with its landmark statement of "deep regret" a week ago for having sent a spy submarine into South Korean waters, its statements since then have been more mundane and rather less conciliatory.

"True colors of fascist murderer cannot be concealed," read the headline on one dispatch last week from the official press agency KCNA about President Kim Young Sam of South Korea.

When Mr. Kim voiced mild hope for improved relations with the North, the headline read, "Puppet's remarks full of falsity and deception."

"It is the height of impudence for the traitor who has no idea and way of promoting inter-Korean relations to talk about 'reconciliation' and 'peaceful reunification,'" the leading North Korean newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in a commentary Friday about Mr. Kim's comments. "His utterances are no more than a trick to cover up his fascist, bellicose and splittist characters."

The denunciations are significant because they may be a gauge of the mood in North Korea's leadership and of its willingness to work with the South in easing tensions on the peninsula. Western diplomats have suggested that if the North is serious about reducing tensions, one of the first steps it could take would be to drop some of the more incendiary adjectives it likes to employ about the South.

Mr. Kim has been deeply offended in the past by North Korea's characterizations of him, and some officials say that is one reason he has taken a tough line against the North in recent months.

Still, officials in the South say that for now they are not taking the fulminations all that seriously, partly because they are still buoyed by the statement of regret. That statement was by far the most contrite that North Korea has ever issued.

The statement was not quite an apology, for Pyongyang refused to use the word "apologize." But it was nonetheless an extraordinary act of contrition, by North Korean standards, for the decision to send the submarine with 26 commandos into South Korean waters.

In a sign of how much it must have pained the North to make the statement, it has suggested in recent reports that it was Seoul that apologized. Pyongyang excoriated the South on Friday for having killed 24 of the commandos who came ashore from the sub, and it noted that the remains of those commandos had been handed back to the North.

"This means that the South Korean authorities admitted and apologized for their inhuman crimes," KCNA said.

Despite the harshness of its language, North Korea has agreed to accept a briefing from American and South Korean officials — probably later this month — about a proposal for four-party talks to create a lasting peace. The talks, to which Pyongyang is expected to agree as well, would include the United States, China and both Koreas.

"What is important is what they are going to do, rather than what they are saying," a senior Seoul official said over the weekend. For now, he said, he wants to focus on the "positive side" of events rather than the statements made by the North in the last few days.

Some officials and analysts say that one of the clearest messages of the recent events is that the North must truly be desperate to improve ties with the outside world and get foreign assistance if it was willing to swallow its pride and make a statement of "deep regret."

Washington is expected to reward North Korea by easing trade sanctions, and perhaps later by sending food and other aid. Seoul may also send aid.

North Korean press reports have focused in the last few days on a general strike that began in South Korea last month and is set to resume fully Monday following a New Year's break.

Pyongyang has expressed strong solidarity with the strikers, saying that they are trying to topple "the traitor Kim Young Sam" and opposing "a most shameless political gangsterism unprecedented in the world's history of laws."

BRIEFLY ASIA

China Toughens Blood Regulations

BEIJING — China issued tough new rules on the handling of blood products on Sunday in a move that followed the sale of HIV-tainted blood serum.

The official Xinhua press agency said the rules covered the production and distribution of blood products, and set strict supervisory standards throughout the health industry.

The 5,000-word ruling set harsh punishments for violators, though it gave no details of the regulations themselves and made no mention of the discovery last April of tainted blood products manufactured and sold in China. *(Reuters)*

Kabul Blasts Kill 7

KABUL — An air raid and a major unexplained explosion in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Sunday killed at least seven people and wounded 69, government sources and a private news service said.

Kabul radio, monitored in Islamabad, Pakistan, said two jets of the forces commanded by the Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dustam had carried out the raid. *(Reuters)*

Bombs Shake Delhi

NEW DELHI — Two bombs, one in a bus and the other in a taxi, exploded minutes apart in the Indian capital on Saturday, killing one person and wounding at least 11, the police said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosions, which occurred in the Samaipur Badli area, about 25 kilometers (16 miles) northwest of the center of Delhi. The police said both bombs were crude devices. *(Reuters)*

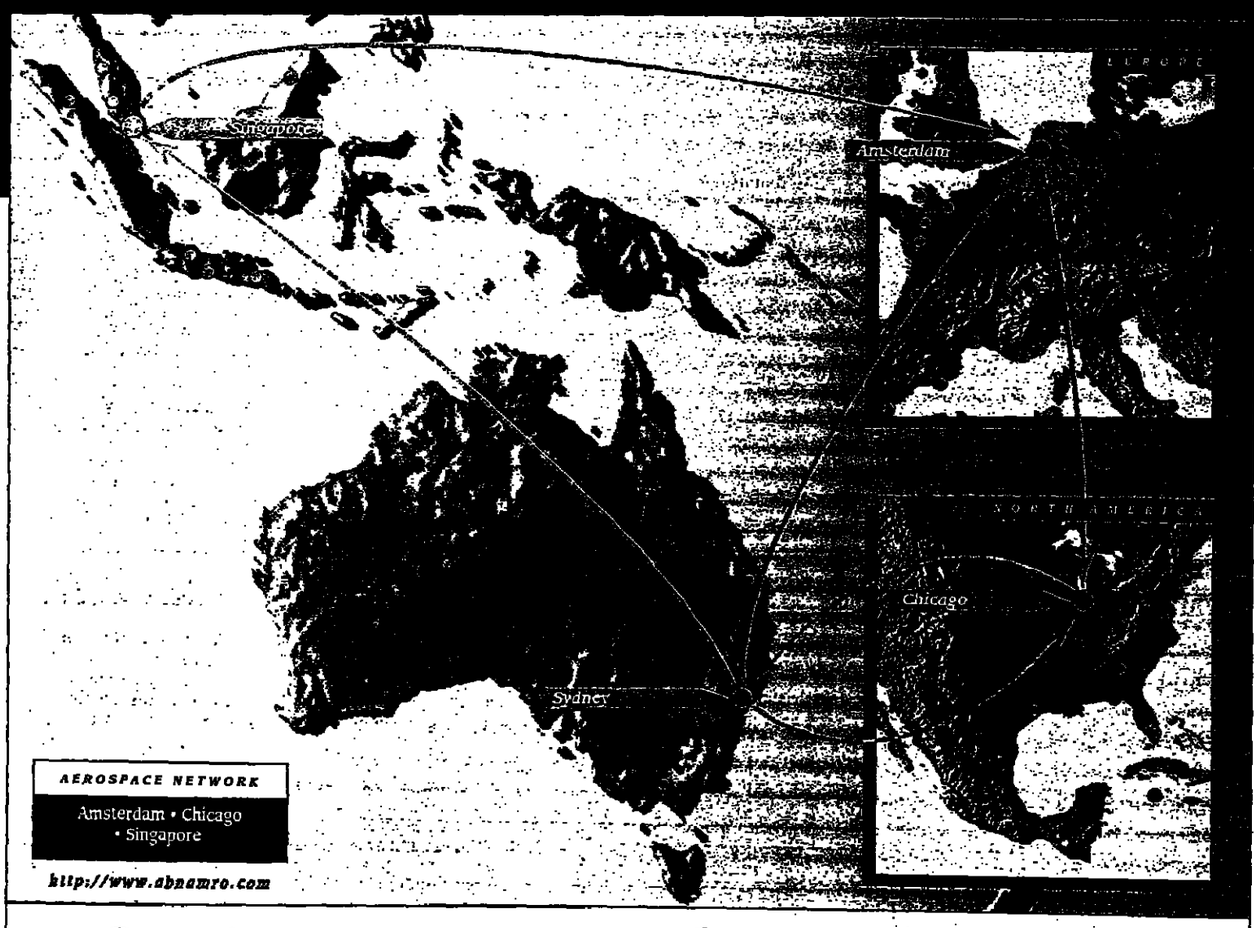
Meeting in Burma

RANGOON — Burma's military government allowed the opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to meet with 500 supporters on Saturday to mark the country's 49th anniversary of independence.

It was the largest gathering of her followers since the regime began restricting the Nobel laureate's movement in October.

She thanked the government for allowing the celebration, but criticized it for limiting the number of guests to 500. *(AP)*

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In Cars, Belgrade Throng Outmaneuvers the Police

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — "Olga, Olga," yelled the crowds, as they marched past the apartment of the 82-year-old grandmother who has become an unlikely symbol of Serbia's democracy movement. The rhythmic chants soon brought the redoubtable Olga Radovanovic out onto her second-floor balcony, brandishing a Serbian flag in one hand and waving triumphantly to the protesters with the other.

For the first time since Serbia's Communist government sent riot police to "unblock traffic" in Belgrade on Dec. 25, the street below was full of cheering people. A cacophony of sounds filled the city center: car horns, sirens, drums, cymbals, the banging of pots and pans. And all around the piercing screech of thousands of whistles, telling President Slobodan Milosevic that his time was up.

For a 10-day period, the police had succeeded in bottling up opposition supporters in a central square, preventing them from staging daily marches around the city to protest alleged election fraud by the Milosevic government. But Sunday, the demonstrators regained possession of the streets by resorting to the new tactic of creating monstrous traffic jams. By turning the center of Belgrade into a snarling mass of honking cars, they obstructed the police.

"Serbia has risen up," said Zivojin Davidovic, a 46-year-old architect, honking the horn of his battered Toyota on Belgrade's main street. "This is no longer just about the elections. It is about Milosevic's own power."

Hundreds of riot police sat quietly in buses parked near the Yugoslav Parliament building, holding their helmets and plexiglass shields on their laps and making no attempt to interfere with the demonstrations.

The cavalcade and march by tens of thousands of Belgrade residents showed convincingly that, after 47 days of almost continuous protest against the "stealing" of Nov. 17 local elections, the Serbian democracy movement is far from running out of steam. The city erupted into another round of noise-making Sunday evening as people heeded opposition calls to "drown out" the main news bulletin of state-run television in protest at its virtual blackout of information about the demonstrations.

At the same time, however, the opposition shows little sign of broadening the social basis of its protest movement against Europe's last Communist regime. For the most part, the demonstrators belong to the middle classes and the *intelligentsia*, who have suffered most as a result of the economic policies of the Milosevic government and Serbia's isolation from the outside world. Many workers remain indifferent, while some are hostile.

"This is pointless," said a bus driver, whose vehicle got snarled up in the demonstration. "*It is just a struggle for* power between one group and another group. Nothing will change."

"It is infantile," said a stranded bus passenger. "I am for changes, but not with these people."

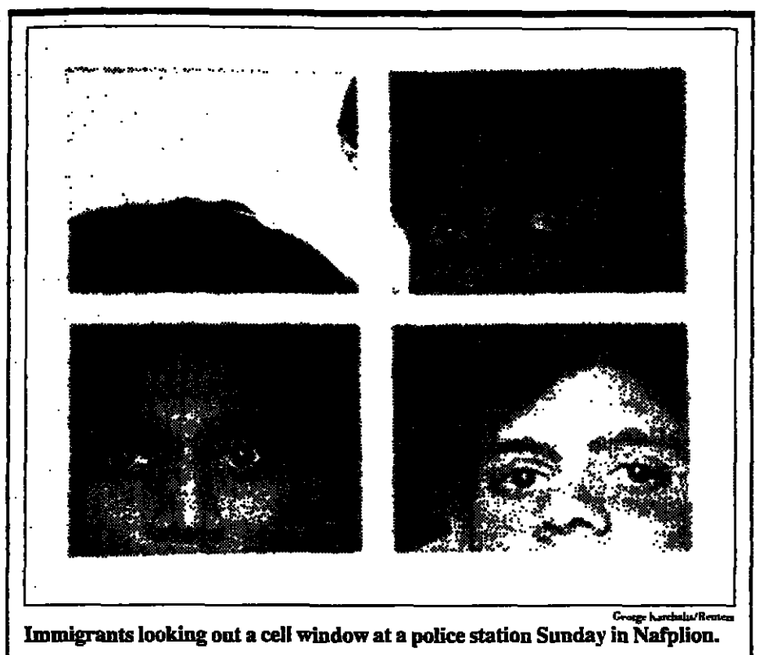
"At the moment, only the bourgeoisie and the students are out on the streets," acknowledged Mrs. Radovanovic, the daughter of a World War I Serbian general and the widow of a prominent doctor, in between saluting the crowds beneath her balcony. "For the moment, this is just a revolt. When the workers come out as well, then it will be a revolution."

During the first phase of the street protests, Mrs. Radovanovic became an instant celebrity. She was one of the first Belgrade residents to come out onto her balcony in support of the demonstrators, whom she showered with flowers and candy. When she failed to appear one afternoon, because she was resting in bed with a broken arm, there was consternation among the crowd.

The demonstrators got another morale boost when they were joined by the 86-year-old former governor of the bank of Yugoslavia, Dragoslav Avramovic, widely regarded as the only politician in the country with a stature approaching that of Mr. Milosevic's. Mr. Avramovic was the key figure in stopping hyperinflation in the country in January 1994, when he issued a new currency and regained control over the money supply.

Mr. Avramovic, who requires regular dialysis for a kidney disease, was originally named as head of the opposition Zajedno coalition. But he gave up the post without explanation before federal elections in the fall, leading to speculation that the regime had found some way of silencing him. Beyond saying that he was for "democracy and freedom," he made few public comments Sunday.

After blocking traffic on the city's central boulevard, the demonstrators took their traditional route, past the paint-spattered building of Belgrade television and the state-controlled newspaper Politika, where they stopped and jeered. After two hours of deafening noise-making, everyone went home peacefully.



George Karchalis/Reuters

Immigrants looking out a cell window at a police station Sunday in Nafplion.

Tale of Mystery Shipwreck

Migrants Tell Greek Police of a Deadly Collision

Reuters

NAFPLION, Greece — Migrants who said they had paid at least $5,000 each to be smuggled into Europe gave chilling accounts Sunday of a collision at sea in which Greek police fear as many as 280 people may have drowned.

Greek police said the migrants, from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, had told them that two vessels packed with people collided about 25 kilometers (15 miles east) of Malta on Christmas Day.

Ahmad Shahab of Pakistan said that hundreds of migrants were forced from a larger ship to a smaller vessel before the collision and that he saw his brother drowning.

"Some were lost at sea," said the Greek public order minister, George Romeos, "some may have made it to Italy on another ship and some ended up in Greece."

The ministry said 107 immigrants were arrested last Monday when the larger vessel docked at the Greek port of Nafplion.

"It is difficult not to believe them," said the Nafplion police chief, Panayotis Kalofolias, referring to the migrants' accounts. He said the description of the smaller ship fit that of a vessel stolen earlier from Malta.

Italian authorities searching the channel between Sicily and Malta said they had found no sign of a collision. But a Maltese armed forces spokesman indicated it was very difficult to trace a shipwreck if rescuers did not know its exact position.

Algerian Militants Reportedly Kill 16 More Villagers

The Associated Press

PARIS — Islamic militants murdered 16 people early Sunday in a village south of Algiers, according to a French radio report that quoted Algerian security officials.

It was the latest in a series of massacres in villages in the Blida region, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital. It came just a week after 28 villagers were hacked to death in another hamlet.

More than 250 people have been killed in similar attacks in the last two months.

The government has attributed all the attacks to Islamic insurgents trying to topple Algeria's military-backed regime. The rebels' campaign has been countered by a brutal crackdown by the security forces.

About 60,000 people — soldiers, civilians and Islamic militants — have been killed since the start of the insurgency, which was started after the army canceled legislative elections in January 1992 that the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

According to France-Info radio, the attack Sunday occurred before dawn in the village of Ben Achour, near Blida. No other information was immediately available.

The mountainous Blida region has been a prime target for attacks in the five-year-old insurgency despite the presence of a major military base.

A week ago, attackers claiming to be Islamic militants sealed off Ain Defla, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Algiers, cutting off roads and telephone lines. They then hacked to death 28 villagers with knives and axes, the government said.

The attackers claimed they were members of the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of several factions fighting the government.

The Armed Islamic Group wants to impose strict Koranic law in the nation, banning alcohol, separating men and women and requiring all women to veil themselves.

Robert Daniell Dies; Liberated Nazi Camp

The Associated Press

LONDON — Robert Daniell, 95, the British tank commander who in 1945 smashed open the gates of the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, Germany, has died.

Mr. Daniell died on Dec. 11 in Bury St. Edmunds, according to published obituaries. The cause of death was not announced.

He was among the first Allied witnesses to the horrors of Bergen-Belsen, where tens of thousands of prisoners, most of them Jews, died of starvation, disease and torture.

Mr. Daniell was a lieutenant colonel commanding the 13th Honourable Artillery Company, part of the 11th Armored Division operating in northwest Germany in April 1945. The column was nearing a German camp when an enemy major ran toward it.

Ordered to check out the camp, Lieutenant Daniell crashed his tank through the gates and encountered no resistance from guards.

"I saw a man go to a door of a building and lock it," Mr. Daniell recalled in an interview in 1992. "I shot the lock off and found it was the hospital. It was crammed with tiers of bunks on which lay starving, sick and helpless people.

"Then I heard shots and found corpses of prisoners who were shot by the guards as they tried to get over the wire when they heard our guns advancing.

"There were Hitler Youth shooting prisoners so they would die in agony. I was so disgusted I shot the guards with the last four rounds I had. They were the scum of the earth, horrible."

His unit did not linger at the camp, which still held more than 60,000 prisoners when it was officially liberated three days later.

In the first five days of liberation, 14,000 prisoners died, and 14,000 others died in the following weeks.

Mr. Daniell, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, retired in 1952 and then spent 20 years with the bodyguard of Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Marie Torre, 72, Jailed In 1959 Libel Case

NEW YORK (NYT) — Marie Torre, 72, a former television columnist for The New York Herald Tribune who was jailed in 1959 for refusing to disclose a source in a libel action, died of lung cancer Friday in Monroeville, Pennsylvania.

Miss Torre served 10 days in the Hudson County Jail in New Jersey, the first reporter to gain national attention for going to jail for refusing to identify a news source.

Henry L. Yeagley, 97, Theorist on Bird Flight

NEW YORK (NYT) — Henry Lincoln Yeagley, 97, a physicist who developed a theory in 1942 to explain why birds could fly great distances and then return to the precise spot they had left, died Dec. 26 in State College, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Yeagley concluded that a homing pigeon could, during its flight, sense both the force of Earth's magnetic field and the force of Earth's rotation.

BORDERLANDS: *In Russia's Shadow, a Security Dilemma*

Continued from Page 1

investments in such bases, plus its strategic needs, give it a right to stay.

Many Russians, including top political leaders, argue that Russia should take back parts of this zone that have large Russian populations — and they question the independence of the two Slavic states, Ukraine and Belarus. As President Boris Yeltsin has lost popularity, he has made concessions to nationalist views.

Russians typically view their country as the benevolent "older brother" to their neighboring fellow Slavs, and share the bewilderment of Tatiana Vinokurovka, a high school teacher in Tula, south of Moscow.

"*It seems very strange that Ukraine* and Belarus ever chose to become independent from us," Ms. Vinokurovka mused in a conversation last summer. "In the end, they won't be able to live without Russia and they'll rejoin."

The strengthening of nationalism in Russia is reflected in senior Russian officials who openly agree. A foreign policy adviser to Mr. Yeltsin, Dmitri Ryurikov, recently described the "assertion of Ukrainian statehood" as " a temporary phenomenon."

Russia has stepped up pressure on Ukraine to cede power in Sevastopol, the Russian-built Crimean naval port where, over centuries, Russian armies fought desperate battles against European invaders. Ukraine's independence gave it control of Sevastopol even though the Russian Black Sea navy remains based there. Ukraine has offered to share the port with the Russians, but Russia demands exclusive basing rights.

Russia's upper legislative chamber formally claimed Sevastopol as "part of Russia's territory" and condemned Ukraine for "aiming to tear it away." Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin echoed the sentiment, saying, "Sevastopol's soil is packed with Russian bones."

Last month, Russia's legislature reinforced a similar claim to the region of Moldova known as Trans-Dniester, calling it a "zone of special strategic interest" to Russia.

The Russian Army for two centuries has kept bases in the area, which takes its name from the river at the threshold of the Balkans. Russian troops backed a rebellion against Moldova in 1992, founding a pro-Moscow enclave. Russia keeps about 6,000 troops there despite a 1994 agreement to withdraw them, and demands that Moldova give it permanent basing rights.

To the north, the presence of Russia is less contested. Its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad remains heavily militarized and allows Russia effectively to encircle Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Belarus, under pro-Russian President Alexander Lukashenko, has become Russia's willing regional partner. Mr. Lukashenko has granted Russia leases on two military bases, and Russian troops a role in guarding its borders. To strengthen his authoritarian but politically weak government, he has recruited Russian officers for key posts in the military and secret police.

Besides military bases, Moscow has other means to press states in this region. Long after most other borders have been demarcated, Russia has yet to settle its frontiers with Ukraine and the Baltic states. It has held back from signing a treaty that explicitly recognizes Ukraine's sovereignty and has rejected the validity of 1920 treaties in which Moscow acknowledged the sovereignty of Estonia and Latvia.

Beyond each country's weak spots, the entire region faces the proximate power of Russia. According to Yuri Kirilov, a Ukrainian engineer, that is why he has decided that his young son should study both English and Russian, as well as Ukrainian. "This is necessary to give him the best chance for a successful career," Mr. Kirilov said.

For both his country and his son, "the future lies in getting closer to the Western world," said Mr. Kirilov. "My son should learn to speak English. To have security, Ukraine must join NATO and the European Union. But this cannot be our only approach. Russia is a huge power and it will always be next to us."

NATO: *Kohl Prediction*

Continued from Page 1

the last Russian troops were withdrawn in defeat from Chechnya, hopes for a return to great power status seemed even dimmer than usual.

But the plan of the Western military alliance to grant membership to Moscow's former Communist allies is the most tangible reminder of how far Russia has declined as a military power. The idea that countries such as Poland and Hungary, which only 10 years ago were subservient to Moscow's orders, could be formally linked to NATO has driven many Russian politicians to distraction.

With Mr. Yeltsin ill and away from the Kremlin, there had been no official who could credibly negotiate with the West. Over the next several months, he will be talking with world leaders again — traveling, for instance, to the United States in March — and he is expected to press them to grant Russia a special security arrangement in return for its agreement not to oppose NATO expansion.

"We sought a settlement of this issue," Mr. Yeltsin said through his press secretary after the meeting Saturday. "We agreed to continue discussion in the future on the theme 'Russia and NATO.' "

■ Yeltsin to The Hague

President Yeltsin will go to The Hague in early February in his first visit to a Western country since his heart surgery last year, a spokesman said Sunday, The Associated Press reported from Moscow.

The Kremlin spokesman, Igor Bytnikov, did not give an exact date for the journey, but said it would take place early next month.

Mr. Yeltsin will travel to Germany in April to accept the German Media Prize, the presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Saturday.

NUCLEAR: *Host of Issues Impedes U.S. Effort to Get Moscow to Remove Fuel From Georgia*

Continued from Page 1

Ukraine, the reactor was closed for safety improvements. The temporary shutdown became permanent after local environmentalists complained and the Soviet Union collapsed, ut the shutdown left Georgia with a troubling legacy.

Like other reactors of its generation, Georgia's reactor used highly enriched uranium, a tempting target for would-be nuclear powers or terrorists hoping to build a bomb. Even the reactor's spent fuel, which was stored in a cooling pond, posed a danger, because such material can be refined into bomb ingredients.

The physics institute has never had any desire to retain the nuclear material, its director, Giorgi Kharadze, said.

But Mr. Kharadze said economic collapse had forced Georgia to seek outside help in disposing of the uranium.

During the Soviet era, Georgia periodically sent its spent fuel to a Russian nuclear center at Chelyabinsk in the Ural mountains of Siberia. The last trainload — 44 rod-shaped pieces of spent fuel — left *for the center in March 1991.*

Five rod-shaped pieces containing spent fuel could not be accommodated on the train and were left in the reactor's cooling pond. It seemed a minor complication at the time, but it would emerge as a major headache.

A few months later, the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving the institute with the five rods, or nearly 2 pounds (900 grams) of spent fuel, and, more worrisome, an additional 22 pounds of highly enriched uranium.

Georgia fell into civil war, and after the fighting eased by 1994, the institute began again to whittle down its supply. It sent about 11 pounds of highly enriched uranium to Uzbekistan, which has a similar reactor, in 1995.

That still left Georgia with about 9.5 pounds of highly enriched uranium and the nearly 2 pounds of spent fuel.

One American official said the material left in Georgia, while substantial, would *not be enough to make a bomb. But some* private specialists said a proficient scientist could use it to do so.

In January 1996, specialists at the U.S. Energy Department sent the White House a classified letter proposing a simple solution: Strike a deal with the Georgians and move the highly enriched uranium to the United States. There is a successful precedent for such a move. 1994 the United States had carried out "Operation Sapphire," hauling *more than half a ton of bomb-grade uranium* from Kazakstan to the nuclear complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The Energy Department's proposal left unresolved the issue of what to do with Georgia's spent reactor fuel. Although the United States has the technology to handle such radioactive material, officials said the Department of Energy was afraid that accepting the spent fuel would mean facing protests and lawsuits from environmentalists.

There were also foreign-policy concerns. The State Department and the White House, with an eye on the broader relationship with the Russians, argued that Moscow should be given the chance to resolve the problem itself. By the spring of last year, American officials decided to ask Russia to accept all of the spent fuel and enriched uranium. Under the arrangement, the United States would pay Georgia about $100,000 for the material — its market value, American officials calculated.

*But in early summer, U.S. officials re*ceived indications that the Russians were not so eager to tackle the problem. Because of what Moscow described as a mix-up, Russian officials did not show up at a three-way meeting in Tbilisi.

Papal Visit to Cuba Set for January '98

New York Times Service

ROME — Pope John Paul II's trip to Cuba, in the works for several months, has at last acquired its missing key element: a firm date, now set for late January 1998, a senior Vatican official has confirmed.

Although several months later than originally expected, the importance of the fixed date goes beyond a mere planning detail. It means that the Vatican has been able to pin down President Fidel Castro on an invitation that Cuba issued several times, but never *on terms acceptable to the Pope.*

The official announcement from the Vatican on Saturday gave no details on the trip. But diplomats assume the Vatican has been reassured that the visit will occur with few restrictions.

GINGRICH: *Lack of Competition Should Aid Speaker's Cause*

Continued from Page 1

legislation, passed into law. Representative Henry Bonilla of Texas, elected in the takeover year of 1994, put it this way:

"All of us understand he was the visionary behind our winning our majority in '94. He does clearly have an agenda that we all believe in. He's truly an outstanding CEO. When you put all those aspects together, it would take a lot to say because the CEO fumbles the ball on one play that we ought to take him out of the game.

"We're looking at the big picture. He's a visionary, and we just believe in him so *strongly.*"

Another conservative sophomore, Representative John Shadegg of Arizona, pointed to the speaker's leadership style.

"Part of his political appeal is he recognizes how to build a coalition with an existing group," Mr. Shadegg said. "The Republicans in the House span a philosophical band from very conservative to very moderate, and Newt listens to all those views and tries to find common ground."

With a majority of just 19 votes, Republicans must unite to get anything done.

The argument made by Mr. Shadegg comes even more strongly from party moderates, who say the speaker pays more attention to them than Mr. Armey or any other possible successor would.

Representative Sherwood Boehlert of New York, a leading Republican environmentalist, said: "I *think* he is a very effective leader. I think he is an inspired leader. The greatest ability among many great abilities Gingrich has is the ability to listen."

He cited the speaker's efforts to change the direction of Republican moves on the environment and to accommodate moderate concerns about cuts in education and low-income energy assistance.

"The point is you can go to Gingrich," Mr. Boehlert said. "He will listen. He will not always agree. When he does, he will develop a strategy that will allow us all to go forward."

An aide to a Northeast Republican who has been concerned about the ethics issues but supports the speaker agreed.

"Newt is the most moderate guy in the leadership," said the aide. "That's the guy we want as speaker. He helped us get the minimum-wage bill through. We don't want to negotiate that with Armey or DeLay. Newt's more moderate, so that's better for a district like ours."

The aide's guess about how it would be to deal with Mr. Armey, the heir apparent, or Mr. DeLay is based on their ideological rigidity. It might prove to be a very bad guess.

But the fact is that the Republicans have been leading the House for only two years, so it is not possible for members to judge how their colleagues have developed.

An important factor is that Republicans feel they owe Mr. *Gingrich something that* Democrats never felt they owed Mr. Wright: power. Jim Wright inherited Democratic control; he did not bring it about.

It is that debt to Mr. Gingrich, far more than the money he raises for them, that Republicans ponder as they consider what to do Tuesday.

SKATE: *Europe's Freeze Revives 125-Mile Dutch Marathon on Ice*

Continued from Page 1

racing from town to town along narrow Dutch roads.

To a speed-skating devotee like Irene Postma, the tour lets her escape the 1990s and dwell briefly in a timeless Holland.

"It's something we've been doing forever," she said. Although the Elfstedentocht was first skated in 1909, variants have been around almost ever since the Dutch attached a blade to a shoe — though not with the cellular phones that today allow some skaters to communicate with their coaches and friends.

The race is also a skating purist's ideal test of skill. "There's a world champion every year, but this is more heroic," Ms. Postma said. "If you can win on the natural ice, and in the dark, and be the first of 16,000, that would mean much more than being the world champion, beating 25 people on artificial ice, with perfect conditions, going round and round."

Among the 261 men and 45 women uncaged in the first professional wave at 5:30 A.M. Saturday were some top-ranked speed skaters and past Olympic medalists and world champions. Most were natives of this monarchy of 15 million, though anyone may enter.

The first to cross the finish line, after 6 hours 49 minutes, was a local sprout farmer, Henk Angenent, 29, who called this the greatest day of his life. Klasina Seinstra, 28, was the women's winner in 7 hours 49 minutes.

The prize for winning is a simple medal and a place in Dutch history. Past leaders of the pack have even been known to hold hands and cross the finish line together. The last winner (in 1986 and 1985), Evert van Benthem, whose name is known to millions of people, is still the dairy farmer he was then. His younger brother, Henk, finished fourth.

But for the huge majority of the 16,372 registered to skate — thousands more would have if officials worried about stressing the ice had not limited participation — the tour is just that: A chance to skate through the postcard country of windmills and water gates and tidy little bridges and dwellings, and make it to the end. The last stragglers come in around midnight.

The Elfstedentochters make two kinds of memorable noise: the rhythmic slipping and scraping of long blades on rough ice, and the clomping thunder of the klunen. The klunen are the 14 places on the course where a bridge over a canal *is too low or the ice is too thin. All skaters* have to trundle in their skates across loose boards around the obstacle.

The tour is the pride of Friesland, the only part of Netherlands with a recognized minority language, considered an ancient cousin of English. It is spoken by 60 percent of the local inhabitants.

What makes the tour extraordinary among sporting events is its spontaneity. All of the Netherlands every winter anticipates its announcement whenever the weather turns bitterly cold.

The uncertainty also holds heartbreak for those who train every year for an event that might not happen and seldom does.

Has a Dutch person been known to wager on the outcome?

"That's something that's not in our veins," said Sjoerd Cuperus, one of the thousands of volunteers working on the race. "Horses, maybe. Skaters, no."

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
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Smart Cuba Policy

President Bill Clinton has done something deft and potentially effective in dealing with Cuba. A year ago the administration was in disarray. Senator Jesse Helms was forcing it to toughen the longtime American embargo in a way that widened the gap between Washington and its principal allies and trading partners and granted Fidel Castro the twin role of aggrieved nationalist and David to the American Goliath. But now Mr. Clinton has brought to the front of his policy an emphasis on democracy and human rights that narrows the Atlantic gap and isolates not him as an embargo tightener but Mr. Castro as a democracy and human rights laggard. This is the way it should have been all along.

The lever that moved Cuba policy was the Helms-Burton Act, and particularly its provision (Title III) to punish others "trafficking" in Cuban-expropriated property. Europeans and Canadians understandably identified this as a retreat from U.S. free trade obligations. Latins saw it as well as a fresh dollop of American unilateralism. Mr. Castro snorted in cynical glee.

Mr. Clinton dispatched Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, previously his European trade operative, to let the Europeans vent on Helms-Burton and then to rally European governments, business and nongovernmental organizations around an energetic program to promote democracy in Cuba. It helped that Spain, to which other Europeans defer on this matter, had a new conservative prime minister, and that Ireland owed President Clinton on Northern Ireland. The crowning achievement was to prod the European Union to look beyond commerce and to accept a binding obligation to condition Europe's economic concessions on Havana's progress on human rights and democracy at every stage. This was presented to the Europeans as a bow not to Senator Helms but to Europe's own democratic heritage.

Europe remains cool to Helms-Burton. But it has let the core of the debate turn from contention over embargo terms — an alliance splitter for Washington — to a winning issue of principle on which Europe stands with the United States. This permitted Mr. Clinton on Friday to take the law's option to suspend for six more months the offensive but usable-for-bargaining Title III.

And what will the new policy do for political rights in Cuba? The American embargo is still on. But the trade, investment and aid that Europe will continue will be conditioned on a Cuban political easing and will be directed to private rather than official usages. His 38-year tenure suggests that Mr. Castro is more easily poked than moved. At the least he will be less able to play Europeans and other Latins against Washington. One can say that democratic change will come eventually to Cuba, as it has to most of the other Communist dictatorships, but it is harder to say just when.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Foul Latin Prisons

The Peruvian guerrillas occupying the Japanese ambassador's residence have, among other things, demanded better conditions for their imprisoned colleagues. Although the method they chose to make the point is deplorable, their diagnosis of prison life in Peru is on the mark. Peru makes serving time particularly harsh for the Tupac Amaru guerrillas and others convicted of political crimes. But common criminals throughout Latin America endure scandalous conditions.

Walking through a prison in Peru is like stepping into a Hieronymus Bosch triptych of hell. Spittle rains down from the third-floor cells. Prisoners stick their arms and legs through the bars and beg by lowering bowls on strings. Inside the cells, the floors are covered with slime and filth. Men are crammed into the cells, sitting on the floor or on concrete bunk beds with no mattresses.

Most of the inhabitants of these medieval bedlams should not be in prison to begin with, for they have not yet been tried. Some languish for years, only to be found innocent or given no sentence. In Honduras and Uruguay, according to the Prison Project of Human Rights Watch, 90 percent of prisoners are awaiting trial.

Guards do not keep order; prison gangs do. Drug abuse is rampant. Some prisons do not even feed prisoners. In others the food is meager and barely edible. Prisoners without families to bring them food earn their meals by working as slaves or prostitutes for other prisoners. Many prisons have no medical care. In Peru, Brazil and, most recently, Venezuela, government officials have put down disturbances by massacring prisoners.

Although governments claim they cannot afford to put more money into prisons, the real problem is that they do not want to. The prisons in Venezuela, Latin America's richest nation, are among the continent's most violent and squalid. But prisons that hold white-collar criminals, military men or wealthy drug traffickers are comfortable places. One in Colombia was nicknamed the Sheraton. Most prisons are neglected because ordinary prisoners tend to be poor, with no political influence. The only advocates for reform are a few dogged human rights and religious groups.

The low status of prisoners is also a function of Latin America's neglect of its courts. Many prisoners have no lawyers. Rising crime rates have led to overcrowding and heavier loads for judges, whose cases back up for years. Prison guards receive little training and low salaries, encouraging corruption.

The steps governments must take to humanize their prisons are no mystery. They include better facilities, professional, decently paid guards and crackdowns on corruption and other abuses. More money is needed for food, doctors and education and work programs. Most important, responsible officials have to build legal systems in which even the poor can get real justice.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Terrorism by Mail

Responsible citizen cooperation and alert police work prevented tragedy on Thursday when five letter bombs addressed to the Washington office of an Arabic-language newspaper were safely defused or exploded. Two similar bombs (and a third found later), sent to a "parole office" at the Leavenworth, Kansas, federal prison, where one of the World Trade Center bombers sits, also were disarmed. A Washington correspondent for the London-based Al Hayat newspaper thought something was fishy about some bulging "Christmas cards" and called National Press Building security guards. The police followed up, and no one was hurt.

Since there has been such a premature rush to judgment on the subject in terrorism episodes before, everyone needs to be restrained about this one and not get ahead of the evidence. But the addressee and the fact that all eight letter bombs finally collected bore postmarks from Alexandria, Egypt, give an undeniable Middle Eastern cast to this so far unexplained plot.

In addition, there is the distinctive nature of Al Hayat. Owned by a member of Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family (a brother of the Washington ambassador), the paper is known in the Arab world for its relative independence, its detachment from any single national or ideological cause and its openness to views across the spectrum, including views at the extremist end. It circulates in Arab places where a similar homegrown paper would be barred, and in the West. Its attention to practically every subject except the royal family has made it a rare respected Arab newspaper — and now, it appears, a target of one or another terrorist source that has been written up in its pages.

To those of us — that means practically all of us — who routinely use the mails, letter bombs must seem an especially abominable, cowardly and unfair instrument of terrorist vengeance. When the target is a newspaper, then the threshold of menace is raised from the individual who happens to open the fatal envelope to the whole possibility of having an independent press. On the health of the independent media, in turn, rests the prospect for peaceful change and an open society. That is why others must hope that the owners, editors and reporters of Al Hayat shake off this attack and proceed with due caution to keep at their valuable work.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

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A Fateful Moment in Arab-Israeli Diplomacy

By Thomas L. Friedman

NEW YORK — This is a moment of real import in Arab-Israeli diplomacy. The talks between Israelis and Palestinians are poised for either a decision that will have a huge impact on their relations, or for disintegration that will have a huge impact on the region.

President Bill Clinton, pay attention. The Israeli-Palestinian deal over Hebron was supposed to be just one incremental step on the road to final negotiations. But instead it is turning into a mini-version of the final negotiations, with the stability of the whole region and the Israeli political alignment in the balance.

Put simply, Benjamin Netanyahu is afraid of where the Hebron deal is going to take him, which is closer to a Palestinian state, and Yasser Arafat is afraid Hebron won't take him where he wants to go, which is closer to a Palestinian state. So each man is trying to cram into Hebron assurances about what will and will not come after Hebron by way of further Israeli redeployments on the West Bank, and that is where the deal has become stuck.

Both men have good reason to be worried. Mr. Netanyahu is worried because he now has a much better grasp of how deeply rooted the Oslo process is.

When the right wing was out of power in Israel, it got to pretend that Oslo didn't exist. But since his election Mr. Netanyahu, and at least some of his ministers, have come to understand the degree to which Oslo has become central to Israel's integration in the region and the world, the degree to which the Israeli silent majority is ready to go along with it, provided Oslo's security provisions are implemented, and the degree to which Oslo has become part of the Middle East landscape and can be aborted only at a price most Israelis do not want to pay.

So Mr. Netanyahu's willingness to withdraw from Hebron, in accordance with Oslo, is not some favor to America. It is the rational (but grudging) act of a politician who understands where the majority of his people want to go.

Mr. Netanyahu knows that about half of Israelis, those on the left who voted Labor, already embrace Oslo and accept any Hebron deal. Another 25 percent — the security hawks to the right of center — voted for him because they wanted a *better* Oslo, with stronger security, and he has satisfied them. He knows that the remainder, those on the far religious and nationalist right, voted for him to oppose Oslo, and those he has disappointed.

Last week the Israeli pollster Hanoch Smith asked Israelis, "Are you in favor of continuing the peace process?" Seventy-five percent said "yes." Therein lies Mr. Netanyahu's problem.

While a majority are behind him in doing this Hebron deal, many of them come from the opposition Labor Party, and thus their views and their weight are not reflected in his cabinet.

His cabinet reflects only the views of those on the right who voted for him, and they are divided. Some support what he is doing in Hebron; others think he is selling them and their ideology out.

Mr. Netanyahu is trying to overcome the problem by saying: I'll withdraw from Hebron to satisfy the majority that wants the peace process to continue, but I won't commit to all the further redeployments in the West Bank after Hebron that might lead to a Palestinian state, to satisfy my ideology. He wants to be half-pregnant.

If Mr. Arafat were smart, he would let Netanyahu be half-pregnant and sign the Hebron deal now. Here is why.

Soon after any Hebron deal, the Jewish right will split. Some will go to the barricades, but others will slowly draw the conclusion that important Jewish conservatives, such as Henry Kissinger, have already drawn: A Palestinian state of some kind in the West Bank and Gaza is inevitable, and a smart conservative leadership in Israel would recognize that reality and develop a conservative approach to such a state that would shape it in ways most conducive to Israel's security.

The latest polls show that 45 percent of Israelis already accept a Palestinian state, and that is without Labor or Likud ever having endorsed the idea.

Mr. Arafat's mistake is thinking that Mr. Netanyahu is acting under external pressure, and thus is vulnerable to more Palestinian demands. Wrong. Mr. Netanyahu has come as far as he has because he is acting under internal pressure from an Israeli silent majority that wants to see Oslo continued — because it wants separation with security from the Palestinians, and integration with prosperity with the world.

The swift cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security services to prevent a blowup in Hebron after the shooting rampage by an Israeli fanatic is just what Israel's silent majority wants. If Mr. Arafat can guarantee real security like that, day by day, he will constantly have Mr. Netanyahu under pressure to take Oslo to its logical conclusion.

If he can't, no amount of promises written into the Hebron deal will get the Palestinians where they want to go.

The New York Times.

In Democracy's Division of Labor, Journalism Isn't Politics

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — This column is a bit unusual. It is not provoked by a politician or public official but by a fellow columnist, William Safire of The New York Times, a likable and learned man with a wonderful flair to his writing.

He has placed himself at the intersection of two disturbing trends, and his column (*IHT Opinion, Dec. 27*) urging House Speaker Newt Gingrich to step down illustrates a confusion about roles and responsibilities that is a danger to democracy.

Mr. Safire is part of the trend for people to achieve prominent places in journalism not by working their way up from routine beats to more responsible tasks in the newsroom but instead by vaulting the wall from politics and government.

He was not the first, but since he moved directly from speech writing and flackery for Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew onto the op-ed page of The Times, dozens of others have followed his route and tried to emulate his success.

You can see them opining away on the weekend television talk shows, their partisanship often on display. George Stephanopoulos, late of the Clinton White House, is the latest recruit, but others from the staffs of Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Dan Quayle, Jimmy Carter, Mario Cuomo, Pat Robertson and Tip O'Neill are regularly on display.

They carry over from their former roles as political consiglieri the habit of giving advice to politicians. Thus, Mr. Safire moved quickly beyond his judgment on Mr. Gingrich's actions ("wrong, even if not unlawful") to his advice on how to cope with the situation.

A journalist has no business advising a politician — a fact that an earlier transplant, George F. Will, famously forgot when he coached Ronald Reagan for his debate in the 1980 campaign. But when Mr. Gingrich called Mr. Safire for advice, Mr. Safire tells us, he told the speaker that he should step down.

This brand of punditry feeds a second, more consequential trend, the tendency to reduce every issue to public referendum, ignoring the special responsibilities that elected officials hold in a republic like ours. It feeds the growing distortion of democracy identified by the British political scientist Anthony King in an important article in the current issue of The Atlantic.

The now dominant concept of democracy in America, Mr. King writes, "might be called the 'agency' view" that those in office ought to execute the wishes of the majority.

The alternative concept, now derided here, he says, is "the division of labor" that requires those in office to apply their best judgment to the problems at hand, knowing that they will be held accountable for their work at the next election.

If Americans recognized the proper division of labor between the elected and the governed, we would acknowledge that while the choice of a speaker and the judgment on Mr. Gingrich's ethics may affect the public indirectly, they are essentially internal matters that are, in the first instance, the responsibility of the House.

The people do not elect the speaker in the way we elect our legislators or presidents, nor do we decide the disciplinary measures to be applied to any member of the House.

The House must take that responsibility. That it takes its duty seriously is proved by the severely critical report on Mr. Gingrich issued unanimously by the two Democrats and two Republicans who make up the ethics subcommittee.

Soon that report will go to the full House, where each and every member will be held accountable for his or her part of the collective judgment on the appropriate punishment for the rule-breaking that Mr. Gingrich has acknowledged, just as each member will be accountable for this Tuesday's vote on re-electing Mr. Gingrich as speaker.

More and more of the prominent figures in journalism display the mind-sets and play the roles of partisan advisers more appropriate to the political world from which they came, while flouting the values of detachment, skepticism and caution about leaps of judgment that are vital to the craft they have joined. And fewer and fewer opinion-makers accept the notion that those in government have responsibilities beyond doing what the public (or the pundits) want.

Both journalism and politics are subverted by these trends.

The Washington Post.

Washington Is Looking More Shame-Resistant Than Usual

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Atop my list of those who merit a happier and healthier new year sits Vaclav Havel, now convalescing from lung cancer surgery in Prague. He starts 1997 with an act of leadership that other eminent politicians on my list should ponder over the coming 12 months.

A chain-smoker for too many of his 60 years, the Czech president has declared his office a smoke-free environment. If he ever again reaches for a coffin nail at work, he will have to endure the humiliation of breaking his word in front of staff or official guests.

Mr. Havel follows in the leadership tradition of Charles de Gaulle, who once explained that he found it simple to quit smoking: All you have to do, he explained to a friend, is tell your wife and your chief of staff that you have quit smoking.

The differences between the two men are enormous. But their conscious use of the shame factor to give up a treasured but dangerous habit seems to have a common source: concern about the opinion that associates or loved ones hold of the great one's dignity and truthfulness.

Imagine if that standard had been employed by Bill Clinton (who can hardly expect a better year than 1996) and Newt Gingrich (for whom a better 1997 would be a relief). These two Southern politicians established in 1996 that they share many characteristics, including an insistent expectation that they will be forgiven by their staff and supporters — whatever they admit to.

So what else is new in politics? You are right, dear reader. The difference that these two bring to the Washington reflex of demanding unstinting and unexamining loyalty is in degree rather than in kind.

But what a degree. Mr. Clinton does not blush as he belatedly explains that letting a Chinese arms dealer purchase access to the White House through a friendly campaign contributor may have been a bureaucratic oversight by his staff, and has his press secretary justify as business as usual the renting out of the Lincoln Bedroom to Wall Street investment bankers for hog-choking bundles of campaign cash.

At moments like those, the White House seems to have been declared a shame-free zone, as well as a smoke-free one. (The decision on a smoke-free White House, by the way, is attributed not to the president but to Mrs. Clinton as a health precaution.)

I don't intend to recycle the psychobabble that inundated the nation at the start of President Clinton's first term. But it is hard to identify those at the White House who could play the role of de Gaulle's chief of staff, of shaming the leader with a silent but withering stare of disapproval for going back on his word.

Aides or even friends with unforgiving demeanors (I have in mind John Deutch, the outgoing head of the CIA, or his dumped predecessor, R. James Woolsey) do not seem to prosper under this president.

The possible exception — at least before Bhuddist temple fund-raising entered the picture — would be Vice President Al Gore, who will be busy with his own knitting in 1997. He will be knitting the challenging individual foreign policy assignments that Mr. Clinton has given him into a thematic whole, to serve as a base for his own presidential campaign in 2000.

In a few weeks Mr. Gore will welcome Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (who outlasted his rivals and Boris Yeltsin's temper in 1996) to Washington for a semiannual mini-summit of the No. 2s.

Mr. Gore then flies off to South Africa for a similar confab with Vice President Thabo Mbeki (who also unobtrusively consolidated his claim on the political future during the past year) and later goes to Beijing for the unenviable task of meeting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, the architect of the June 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Mr. Li could make 1997 a better year for Mr. Gore, and the rest of the world, by finally admitting to his enormous crime and stepping down before the Gore meeting, or at least by the July takeover of Hong Kong. There is more hope for the second possibility (that he will step down) than for the first.

It will be a better new year either for British Prime Minister John Major or Labor leader Tony Blair, but not for both. One will beat the other in a mercifully short campaign not totally subservient to money and the television commercial time it can buy.

The British still have a healthy shame about the role of those two commodities in politics. But on this side of the Atlantic, shame and politics seem to be traveling on increasingly divergent roads. Faith in one seems to require giving up the other.

The Washington Post.

No, Old Africa Wasn't an Eden

By Brent Staples

NEW YORK — Given the right temptations, peoples are capable of almost anything. Historians tell us that black Africans sold slaves to the West, and that free blacks throughout early America bought and owned them.

Imagine a different history, with Africans as the primary slavers and Europeans as the slaves. The trade would have been just as brutal, given the ferocity of African warrior kings in previous centuries and the episodes of genocide that Africa suffers today.

Many Americans who describe themselves as "Afrocentric" admit to no such possibility. For them the African past is Eden, an infinite source of wisdom about everything from psychiatry to business, politics and education.

The desire to reclaim the black past is understandable, given that it has been systematically undervalued. Mainstream scholars have done a marvelous job of redressing the balance. But uncritical worship of the African past has flourished despite them, spawning ideas that are as racist and limiting as those the Afro-centrists set out to counter.

The most recent example is the decision of the Oakland, California, Board of Education to declare inner-city broken English an "African" language that warrants respect in the classroom.

The Afro-centric enterprise ranges from the admirable to the innocuous to the clearly sinister. As the essayist Gerald Early writes in this month's Harper's magazine, "the creation of this past has in recent years become an all-consuming preoccupation," resulting in a "delusional dogma" that tends toward claims of racial superiority.

The description fits Professor Leonard Jeffries of City College in New York, who taught a climate-based theory of racial identity in which Africans were cast as "sun people" who were "communal, cooperative and collective," while Europeans were scorned as "ice people" who thrive on brutality and destruction.

Some education consultants preach a milder form of this gospel, arguing that black children have different "learning styles," requiring different and, of course, "African" methods of instruction.

Cloistered academics augment these absurd claims by arguing that street English is structurally similar to West African tongues. The Oakland board fell victim to this thinking when it decreed that broken, inner-city English is a distinct language, and called for recognizing "West and Niger-Congo African language systems."

Inner-city black children do not fail because of African "language systems" but because their families and communities often devalue study and academic achievement.

They fail for the same reasons many of them speak so poorly — because standard-English speakers have fled to the suburbs, taking middle-class norms with them.

They fail because many of their schools view them as uneducable and shunt them into special education — a problem that is particularly pronounced in Oakland.

Defining broken English as "black English" is particularly galling, given that black poets, writers and musicians have made eloquent contributions to the culture for at least 200 years. Gospel, blues and jazz, to name just three forms, have swept beyond national borders and become important on the world stage as well.

To equate degraded English with Frederick Douglass's speeches, Mahalia Jackson's gospel or Duke Ellington's suites is beyond absurd.

Oakland's school board president defended the vote by referring to broken urban English as "a genetically based language structure" — a line to make eugenicists jump for joy. Driven by different motivations, fringe Afro-centrists and traditional racists have arrived at the same point of view.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Spanish Victory

HAVANA — In the province of Pinar del Rio the Alsina columns in the mountains of Brujito defeated a column of insurgents who lost nine killed and many wounded. The Spaniards rescued 205 prisoners who were in the power of the insurgents. The divisions of generals Melquizo and Velasco have seized a large number of horses and guns and a quantity of ammunition while scouring the hills in Pinar del Rio. Two hundred insurgents surrendered and five hundred families placed themselves under Spanish protection.

1922: Curie Polemic

PARIS — Several seats are at present vacant in the Academy of Medicine, and there are several names on the lips of the members as candidates to fill them. One is no other than that of Mme. Curie, about whose rumored candidature there is much gossip. The crux of the discussion is the admissibility of a woman to membership. Though there are no clauses in the constitution and bylaws prohibiting the admission of a woman into the body, tradition is strongly set against it. The 'Curists,' however, wish tradition to be thrown to the dogs and plead for a consideration of the actual merits of the eminent discoverer of radium.

1947: Oil Warning

LONDON — America's growing stake in Middle East oil fields and attendant Anglo-American supremacy in control of the world's oil resources with all its political implications have stirred British public opinion and inspired authoritative warnings that oil diplomacy can wreck the present delicate balance in international relations.

LANGUAGE

Mavens on the Trail of le Mot Juste

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — James M. Edwards, a correspondent from Pittsburgh, was *just* wondering: Is he *just* persnickety, or is the word *just* just being tossed into sentences unjustly, with just no thought to its proper function?

He points to an article quoting the chemical-company executive Ray Aiken, saying, "You *just* can't keep pumping out the old stuff."

Edwards suggests that Aiken has placed his *just* too early in the sentence, and his meaning would be better expressed as "You can't *just* keep pumping out the old stuff." (Even better: "You can't keep pumping out *just* the old stuff.")

Just so. In that sentence fragment, *just* means "exactly, precisely." The adverb can also mean "merely," as in "*just* wondering," or in the title of the new posthumous collection of more than 50 short stories by the novelist Shirley Jackson: "*Just* an Ordinary Day."

This ubiquitous modifier has another sense of "barely," as in "*just* a hair's breadth," and another of "nearly," as in "*just* about there," and "really," as in "I'm *just* fine — I only look sick," and more. (Forget about the adjective *just*; we're doing justice only to the adverb here.)

When used in the sense of "only," *just* is properly placed where the *only* should go. This presumes you pay attention to the position of your *onlys*. If you sing "I *Only* Have Eyes for You," you fall into romantic error; it should be "I have eyes *only* for you," or "I have eyes *just* for you." (Another possibility of placement — "*only* I have eyes for you" — can get your face slapped.)

For more help with *only* placement, try Patricia O'Conner's new grammar guide, "Woe Is I," which moves *only* around from "*Only* the butler says he saw the murder" (no one else says it) to "The butler says he saw *only* the murder" (he saw nothing else).

Edwards submits another citation, this from Howard Stern, the broadcaster: "Why don't you *let* me *just* work the equipment?" Since the shock jock presumably wants to speak on the radio and work the equipment simultaneously, shouldn't he pull the adverb up before the let and say, "Why don't you *just* let me work the equipment?"

Yes. When you use *just* in the sense of "merely," place it *only* before the part of the sentence you intend to modify.

Ordinarily I would wait six months for a response from the University of Chicago linguist Professor James McCawley, who saves up his anti-prescriptive harangues at my pop-grammarian conclusions and then looses a MIRV'd barrage. In this case, I ran the placement of *just* past him beforehand.

□

The linguistic giant begins setting me straight with "*Just* has other meanings besides the ones you list. A relevant one is that in 'You've *just* got to help us,' meaning 'damn well,'" which a charitable reader will take to have been Aiken's meaning.

Just right. "In the Howard Stern quote, *just* probably has its 'only' meaning, but since we don't know what Stern was contrasting work the equipment with, the fact that he clearly wanted to talk as well as work the equipment need not conflict with what he said."

Say wha'?

"For example," goes McCawley, who knows his students need f'rinstances to grasp the heavy stuff, "if Lyndon Johnson had said, 'I *only* drink bourbon,' you wouldn't have been entitled to infer that he didn't drink, say, coffee: The implicit set of alternatives that *bourbon* is contrasted with can plausibly be interpreted as 'liquors' or 'whiskeys' — thus as not including coffee. Maybe Stern meant 'work the equipment and not listen to your kibbitzing.'"

Aha! Aren't you, heavy linguistic hitter, separating *only* from its focus, the way the lyricist Al Dubin mistakenly did in "I *Only* Have Eyes for You"? If you snatch *just*, when it means "only," away from its focus, aren't you creating ambiguity?

"Triple red herring. First, in spoken language, '*contrastive stress*' *marks* the focus, irrespective of where *only* is placed. Second, even in written language there is most often *only* one plausible focus — what else could eyes be contrasting with? Third, keeping *only* adjacent to its focus sometimes creates ambiguity, as in 'Mary lets John drink *only* bourbon,' which could mean 'She doesn't let him drink anything else' or 'It's O.K. with her if he doesn't drink anything else.'"

McCawley then applies his crusher: "In its musical setting, the line 'I *only* have eyes for you' is unambiguous, since Harry Warren set the words *only* and *you* to rhythmically stronger beats than *have* and *eyes*, creating a musical counterpart to stresses on *only* and *you*."

Just one minute, Jim. You got me on a poetic technicality on the song title. But why do I afford you this valuable space to accuse me of fostering ambiguity when I am trying to sharpen the focus? You members of the deep-structural workers' union may find that "contrastive stress" (nice phrase — thanks for that) marks the focus, but we prescriptivists say it's the placement of the *just* and the *only* where they belong in the sentence that clearly marks the focus.

McCawley argues that "focalizers" like *just* and *only* have not *only* a focus but also a scope, and that my hang-up about placement in this case is perverse. But the purpose of today's drill is to show, in microcosm, the debate that goes on between descriptive linguistic scientists and prescriptive language mavens.

New York Times Service

BOOKS

THE NEW FOWLER'S MODERN ENGLISH USAGE

First edited by H. W. Fowler. Third Edition edited by R.W. Burchfield. 864 pages. $25. Oxford University Press.

Reviewed by
Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

ONE's suspicions are aroused when, in his preface to this third edition of Fowler's Modern English Usage, R.W. Burchfield, the volume's editor, wonders about the original edition, published in 1926: "Why has this schoolmasterly, quixotic, idiosyncratic and somewhat vulnerable book, in a form only lightly revised once, in 1965, by Ernest Gowers, retained its hold on the imagination of all but professional linguistic scholars for just on 70 years?"

Burchfield, chief editor of the Oxford English dictionaries from 1971-1984, goes on to fault H. W. Fowler, the original author, for various shortcomings. Fowler was isolated "from the mainstream of the linguistic scholarship of his day," Burchfield writes. He "disclaimed any knowledge of American English and by implication, the varieties of English spoken and written" elsewhere in the world.

Some of his entries were "quirky, opinionated and based on inadequate evidence." Although undoubtedly a "masterpiece" that "shows what it was like to be linguistically aware before a new race of synchronic linguistic giants appeared," the book remains "a fossil all the same, and an enduring monument to all that was linguistically acceptable in the standard English of the southern counties of England in the first quarter of the 20th century."

Logically enough, Burchfield's revision reflects these criticisms.

It eliminates the most idiosyncratic of Fowler's entries, for example the entries with "unexpected, indeed opaque, titles" like "airs and graces," "between two stools," "false scent," "unequal yokefellows" and "wens and hypertrophied members." Burchfield adds, "The material in them has been redistributed under much more transparent heads."

The evidence on which judgments of correctness are based has been broadened to embrace an electronic database "obtained from a systematic reading of British and American newspapers, periodicals and fiction of the 1980s and 1990s in approximately equal proportions" and "a more limited range of material from other English-speaking countries, especially Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa."

At first, a sampling of this reviewer's pet peeves seemed reassuring. Under the entry "I," Burchfield writes: " 'Between you and I' must be condemned at once. Anyone who uses it now lives in a grammarless cavern in which no distinction is recognized between a grammatical object and a subject."

Under "point in time, at this," he writes, "it is the kind of phrase that calls out for the attention of copy editors and journalistic subeditors."

But the more you sample, the more you are troubled by the degree to which tolerance lapses into passive acceptance in the face of regrettable change. Under "life style" he writes, "The extended sense has often been assailed ('obnoxious,' 'an unnecessary and clumsy excrescence on the language,' etc.) but looks like surviving." Under "impact ... (verb)," he writes, "It is very likely that it will pass into uncontested standard use as time goes on."

On the substitution of "comprise" for "compose," he remarks, "It cannot be denied, however, that the sheer frequency of this construction seems likely to take it out of the disputed area before long." He then goes on for half a column quoting sentences from respectable sources in which "comprise" is misused, as if these many examples settled the matter.

By revising Fowler in the manner he has done, Burchfield has transformed him from an upholder of standards into a passive observer of trends.

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt is on the staff of The New York Times.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE Greater New York Bridge Association revived the Board-a-Match Teams as a major event at its Winter Regional Championships. It was won by Michael Kopera and his team.

In a debate between those who use strong-club methods and those who do not, the latter group feels that the one-club bid offers too many occasions for interference, while the former judge that the interference gives them useful clues.

On the diagramed deal, Kopera arrived in three no trump as shown, after he had opened one club, strong and artificial, and heard East overcall in spades.

NORTH
♠ 10 5 4
♡ A 10 5
◇ J 8 7 6
♣ 10 9 3

WEST
♠ 8 6 3
♡ J 8 4 3 2
◇ 5
♣ J 7 6 4

EAST (D)
♠ A J 9 7 2
♡ Q 9
◇ Q 9 4 2
♣ Q 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q
♡ K 7 6
◇ A K 10 3
♣ A K 8 5

North and South were vulnerable.
The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ◇
1 ♠	Dbl.	2 ♠	Dbl.
Pass	3 N.T.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the spade eight.

The spade eight was ducked around to the queen. South cashed the diamond ace, led to the heart ace and played the diamond jack. East covered with the queen and South won the king, noting a heart discard on his left. He now knew that West had begun with spade length and exactly four diamonds. So he cashed his club winners and the heart king, reaching the position shown:

Sure of this position, Kopera exited with the spade king. East could take four spade tricks, but then had to lead from the diamond nine. The game was made, but it would have been harder without any revealing bidding from the opposition.

NORTH
♠ 10 5
♡ 10
◇ 8 7
♣ 10

WEST
♠ 6 3
♡ J 8
◇ —
♣ J 7

EAST
♠ A J 9 7
♡ —
◇ 9 4
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ K
♡ 7
◇ 10 3
♣ 8 5

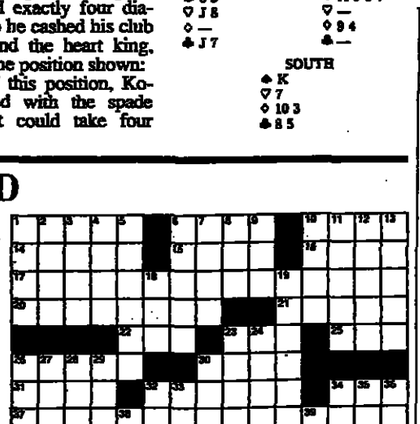
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Courtyards
6 —— d'état
10 Part of a gateway
14 Middays
15 Facilitate
16 Denver's home: Abbr.
17 Disoriented
20 Dancers Fred and Adele
21 ——Japanese War
22 Actor Sparks
23 —— end (very last part)
25 Prime-time hour
26 Soviet labor camp
30 Party to a defense pact
31 Spirited horse
32 Prophet who anointed Saul
34 Mimic
37 Disoriented
40 Jet to Heathrow
41 Vigorous
42 Actress Spelling
43 Operatic prince
44 Dead, as an engine
45 Had been
48 Guinness Book suffix
49 One of the Gershwins
51 Once more
53 Captain Picard series
58 Disoriented
61 State south of Ky.
62 Kind of smasher
63 Sharp as ——
64 Chair
65 They hold hymnals
66 Where Seoul is

DOWN

1 Paul who sang "Having My Baby"
2 Shipping units
3 Cheer (for)
4 Andean of old
5 Inquiring
6 Relinquished
7 Schmoes
8 G.I. entertainers
9 Each
10 Rights protection grp.
11 Chicken house
12 In the ball park
13 Board; as a trolley
18 "Able was I —— ..."
19 Historic county of Scotland
23 Botches
24 Native Alaskan
28 Wanders (about)
27 "Exodus" author
28 Endure
29 Roseanne's network
30 Love, in Lourdes
32 Urban woes
33 Monastery V.I.P.
34 Over
35 Where the Amazon originates
36 Make a change for the verse?
38 China and environs, with "the"
39 One —— time
44 Noted site of Egyptian ruins
45 Floats gently
46 Be of one mind
47 Finnish bath
49 News paragraphs
50 "Far out"
52 "Money —— everything!"
53 Pack
54 Dog in Oz
56 Bring up
56 Suffix with exist
57 America's first commercial radio station
59 Séance sound
60 Dined



Puzzle by Sidney L. Robbins

Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 3

G	E	T	C	O	L	D			P	A	T	A	K	I
A	L	O	H	A	O	E		G	O	T	O	S	E	A
T	I	R	E	S	O	F		E	L	O	P	I	N	G
E	D	M	E	E	S	E		T	E	N	D	S	T	O
D	E	E	P	S	E	A	D	I	V	E	R			
					T	A	T	A		A	N	T	S	
A	G	L	I	M	M	E	R		U	N	W	A	R	Y
C	R	A	M	M	E	D		S	L	E	E	P	O	N
R	A	P	P	E	L		L	I	T	E	R	A	T	E
E	N	D	O		S	A	I	D						
		S	A	D	D	L	E	H	O	R	S	E	S	
A	R	M	E	N	I	A		D	E	F	E	N	S	E
L	E	A	D	I	N	G		I	N	F	L	A	T	E
P	A	R	O	L	E	E		S	N	E	A	K	E	D
O	P	E	N	E	R			H	A	R	P	E	R	S

New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

INTERNATIONAL

Peru Plays Down the Hostage Crisis

It's Business as Usual in Lima in Bid to 'Wear Down' Rebels

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

LIMA — As Peru's hostage crisis drags through its third week, President Alberto Fujimori has ordered his government to resume normal operations, determined to treat the episode as an isolated outbreak of violence, not a national emergency, according to government and congressional leaders.

Analysts monitoring the situation said that the government believed time was on its side, and that if the Marxist guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement were given less attention, the advantage they seized in the media battle would diminish. The hope is that the rebels will grow exhausted.

Over the weekend, Mr. Fujimori ordered his cabinet ministers to begin operating normally, ending the government paralysis that began Dec. 17, when some 20 heavily armed commandos of the rebel group stormed the residence of the Japanese ambassador, taking hundreds of hostages. While several groups of hostages have been released, the rebels continue to hold 74 people, including nine generals, two ambassadors, five congressmen and five Supreme Court justices.

Since Wednesday, talks between the government and the rebels appear to have broken off, and no hostages have been released. But Mr. Fujimori has resumed public appearances, and he has been filmed meeting with a variety of ministers on economic and other domestic issues. His children have also gone out of their way to be seen publicly, going to cafés at night and bungee jumping off a bridge Saturday with reporters present.

Congress has gone back into session, and most of the judicial branch of government began its annual one-month vacation. But, in a sign of how the crisis continues to affect the country, the Supreme Court has refused to make public its ruling made Friday on whether Mr. Fujimori can constitutionally seek a third term in the year 2000. A third term is prohibited by the constitution, but Mr. Fujimori is arguing that the ban is unconstitutional. The court said the ruling would be kept secret so it would not be used to influence the resolution of the hostage crisis.

"The government is trying to normalize the situation, to present the idea that things are going on as usual," said Carlos Chipoco, an opposition congressman. "And time favors the government."

Mr. Fujimori, in a speech Thursday, went out of his way to paint the residence takeover as an "isolated incident," and said it would not affect the government's economic plan.

Jose Pastor Vives, a retired general, said the strategy of wearing out the rebels was the best option left to the government because one of the main purposes of the attack was to generate government paralysis and media attention.

"The terrorists are suffering great physical and mental pressure, by having to guard so many hostages," Mr. Pastor said. "The strategy of wearing them down is correct. The talks will go on until the MRTA is exhausted physically and mentally, and then a deal is struck."

Nestor Cerpa, the rebel commander, has made it clear that he thinks he and his comrades can stick it out. In a press conference on Dec. 31, he said the rebels "have no time limit" to cutting a deal. The rebels have also repeatedly demanded that Mr. Fujimori personally conduct negotiations, something the president has refused to do.

Already, there are growing indications that public and international attention are waning. Television and radio stations, which were breathlessly breaking to regular progamming with live coverage at the smallest development, now give almost all their news during regularly scheduled news broadcasts.



Marie Hippenmeyer/Agence France-Presse

A child joining protesters in Peru's capital demanding the release of 74 hostages held by Marxist guerrillas.

PRISONS: *Peru's Anti-Terror Justice System Ensnares Innocents*

Continued from Page 1

rights workers say, tuberculosis is rampant, and insanity among inmates is not unusual because of the isolation. Suicide attempts are common, they add, usually carried out by inmates' banging their heads against the walls.

While human-rights groups have been unanimous in condemning the hostage-taking, many rights workers said they had pressed the government over prison conditions for years, to little avail.

"This is not something MRTA just thought up," said Miguel Huerta of the National Coordinator of Human Rights, a coalition of 47 human rights groups here. "We have raised the issues, the United Nations has raised the issues, Amnesty International has raised the issues. It is all one package. Abysmal prison conditions cannot be isolated from a judicial system whose purpose is to condemn people, not find the truth."

"The prison conditions in this country are inhuman," said Enrique Bernales, a former senator who works with the Andean Commission of Jurists. "What is being said about them is not an exaggeration."

The anti-terrorism laws — mandating "faceless" courts, where neither the prosecutors nor the judges are seen, and an especially harsh prison regimen for those convicted of terrorism and treason — were enacted by Mr. Fujimori in April 1992, as Shining Path and Tupac Amaru were carrying out nationwide campaigns of economic sabotage, assassinations — often of judges — and military actions.

But national and international human-rights groups say the laws go too far, allowing rampant abuses with little chance of redress and violating international treaties and norms.

For example, suspects can be jailed for up to six years for "defending terrorism" under an ill-defined law that has been used to silence political opponents, the press and human rights organizations. Mr. Alvarez was arrested under that law because he worked for magazines and newspapers critical of the government, although prosecutors produced no articles on which to base the arrest.

Suspects in cases of "aggravated terrorism" and "treason" can be held for up to 30 days without charges. The summary trials sometimes last only 10 minutes. No witnesses or policemen can be cross-examined, and lawyers are routinely denied access to clients until the day of the trial.

"Those caught in the system are presumed guilty and have minimal opportunities to demonstrate their innocence," said an August 1996 report by Human Rights Watch/Americas.

"Our trials lasted five minutes, and we could do nothing to defend ourselves," Mrs. Alvarez said. "Once you are arrested, they say, 'Defend yourself,' but there is no way because you do not know who accused you, you don't know what the evidence is, you have no access to anything. You have no recourses at all."

Of the some 5,000 people jailed for crimes of terrorism or treason since 1992, the National Coordinator of Human Rights identified 1,504 as probably being innocent. Of these, 765 were found not guilty, although most had been incarcerated for more than three years. Another 110 were pardoned after a special board reviewed their cases.

Mrs. Alvarez was among those eventually found not guilty.

"For the first four months, we were not allowed out of our cells at all," she said. "In the morning, we would get tea or coffee. Then about 4 P.M. we would get either soup or stew. We could not even get sanitary napkins. We had to bathe naked outdoors at 6 A.M. We had no books, no paper, no lights and nothing to do."

Mr. Alvarez spent four years fighting to get his case reviewed, and when in the end the state was unable to produce evidence against him he was pardoned.

But since his release, Mr. Alvarez has not been able to find work. His wife works intermittently.

"It does not matter that in the end you were innocent," he said. "People are afraid to deal with us, afraid that if they are our friends, they can be arrested."

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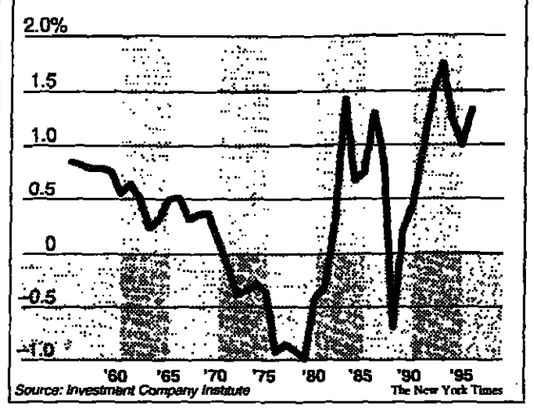
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MUTUAL FUNDS

Figures as of close of trading Friday, Jan. 3

The Flood of Fund Flows

More than $200 billion flowed into equity mutual funds in 1996, 60 percent more than a year ago and a record for stock funds. But when measured as a percentage of assets, last year's average monthly cash flows were only the fourth largest in history, falling short of the levels seen in 1983, 1992 and 1993. Below is the annual average of monthly cash flows, expressed as a percentage of assets, since 1955.



Source: Investment Company Institute — The New York Times

Parretti Left U.S. to Face Italy Probe

Lawyer Says Ex-Chief Of MGM Is 'At Peace'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ORVIETO, Italy — The Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti left the United States not to avoid sentencing but to face a separate investigation in Italy, his lawyer has said.

Mr. Parretti was to be sentenced Monday for perjury and evidence-tampering in a case that cost him control of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

He left for Italy on Thursday to face an investigation into alleged tax fraud, his lawyer, Manlio Morcella, said Saturday.

But authorities in Delaware, where Mr. Parretti was convicted and faces up to 10 years in prison, issued a warrant for the financier's arrest, saying a bail agreement required Mr. Parretti to remain in the United States.

Mr. Morcella said Mr. Parretti was within his rights because he had some Italian matters pending against him that had to be dealt with this month.

"Parretti had to return to Italy because it was required by the appeals court of Perugia, where he must respond to tax crimes for Italian matters," Mr. Morcella said. "He is at peace with himself because his return showed deference to the Italian state."

Mr. Parretti recently lost a legal battle when a judge denied his request to reopen the 1991 case that cost him control of MGM.

Credit Lyonnais, the French state-owned bank that financed Mr. Parretti's $1.3 billion purchase in 1990, seized MGM after claims that Mr. Parretti defaulted on loans and mismanaged the studio.

The bank sued Mr. Parretti in 1991 in a Delaware court, claiming the financier continued to exert day-to-day control over MGM after agreeing to relinquish it to Credit Lyonnais. The court ruled in the bank's favor.

In October, Mr. Parretti was found guilty of perjury and tampering with evidence in the 1991 case. He had returned voluntarily to the United States from Italy to face trial and had been free on bail, living in California.

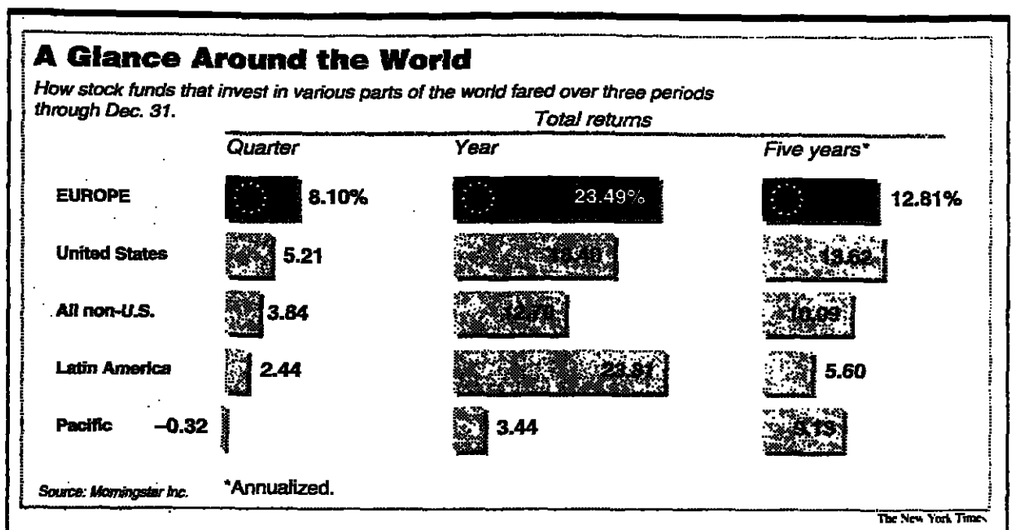
Mr. Morcella said an Italian Justice Ministry decree would allow Mr. Parretti to be sent back to the United States "only when the needs of the Italian judges have been satisfied — and that has not yet happened."

Mr. Parretti still has a lawsuit pending in Los Angeles against Credit Lyonnais, accusing the bank of conspiring to seize the studio from him. That lawsuit had been scheduled for trial in March.

One of the terms of his bail, however, was that the case would be dismissed if Mr. Parretti left the country, said Jeffrey Isaacs, an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. The was no immediate word that steps had been taken to dismiss the case.

Mr. Parretti is also wanted by French authorities, who tried to extradite him from the United States.

(Reuters, AP, Bloomberg)



Europe's Funds Outshine Wall Street

By Robert D. Hershey Jr.
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The New World was a good place to invest money last year, but the Old World was a better one.

The average mutual fund invested in European stocks outperformed the average American fund, 23.49 percent to 18.40 percent, according to figures from Morningstar Inc., a fund researcher in Chicago.

Given the economic cycles, some money managers think Europe will remain a good place to be. European economies were more sluggish for most of the past few years but are starting to grow.

They could be expanding vigorously just as activity — and especially corporate profits — may flatten or ebb in the United States.

"We think Europe is in the early stages of earnings-growth expansion that may last for many years," said Denise Downey, a portfolio manager for Bank Julius Baer in New York, which runs several international funds. "We continue to be quite positive on the European markets."

While some strategists do not share such general enthusiasm, they find no shortage of appealing individual stocks that Europeans themselves may be overlooking because of their traditional "top down," or macroeconomic, approach to investing and an emphasis on the very biggest companies. This leaves many niches where value-oriented investors can find bargains.

INVESTING

"The opportunities for small companies there are terrific," said Michael Gerding, portfolio manager for three international funds sponsored by Founders Asset Management in Denver.

Specialists point to several trends — apart from Europe's potentially more favorable position in the business cycle and lower share valuations — to support a bullish investment case. Last year the number of funds focused on this area swelled by nearly 25 percent, according to Morningstar.

These trends include corporate revamping and outsourcing, friendlier attitudes toward investors, performance-tied executive pay, rising demand for goods from the former Soviet-bloc countries, improved accounting standards and moves to more fully finance corporate pension plans.

Some also take as a favorable sign the arrival in Europe of discount stockbrokers and, in Germany, of tax legislation that should lead to more companies' repurchasing their own shares.

The general loosening of restrictions and dependence on the state has even reached Scandinavia, contributing substantially to big stock-market gains there last year. Two Scandinavian funds, Fidelity Nordic and Wright Equifund-Nordic, were among the top European performers for both the latest quarter and all of 1996.

These countries "tend to be the most Socialist-oriented of all," said William F. Wendler II, vice president of Rowe Price-Fleming International in Baltimore. But they have been forced, he said, to "come to grips with the fact that putting social policy ahead of economic policy was killing them." Now, Mr. Wendler added, less

See INVEST, Page 12

Not Enough Apples Under Christmas Trees

Computer Firm Expects 1st-Quarter Loss Of $150 Million On Performa's Poor Sales

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CUPERTINO, California — Apple Computer Inc.'s comeback plan has suffered a severe setback: The strong demand for its Performa models that it had banked on over the Christmas season failed to materialize.

The company said Friday it would post a loss of as much as $150 million in the first quarter of its financial year, and as a result would consider layoffs and other cost-cutting measures. Last year, the company laid off 1,300 people.

Apple reduced the price of its Performas as much as 30 percent in the autumn to try to lift sales and market share. But consumers have not responded, and now the company expects revenue in the quarter to Dec. 27 to be 10 percent below $2.30 billion reached in the previous quarter. Apple had revenue of $3.15 billion in the first quarter a year ago.

Gil Amelio, who became chairman of Apple 11 months ago, said new restructuring steps now appeared to be necessary. Mr. Amelio already has taken the company through a major reorganization.

"These results suggest that we need to reduce Apple's cost infrastructure so that we can achieve break-even results at a revenue level of $8 billion," Mr. Amelio said. Apple had revenue of $9.83 billion for the year that ended in September, a drop of 11 percent from the year before.

Mr. Amelio said Apple expected its impending acquisition of Next Software Inc., founded by Steve Jobs, the former co-founder and chairman of Apple, to help the company save money on research and development.

Just before Christmas, Apple said it would buy Next for $400 million and hire back Mr. Jobs to help craft a new operating system for the company's flagship Macintosh computers.

Apple executives, though, have said it could take a year or more to develop that new system, leading investors to question the company's immediate future.

Apple released its news after the close of trading Friday. Its shares rose 75 cents, to $21.75. The shares have risen from a 52-week low of $16.875, reached July 16.

"I can't tell you how many people have asked me about whether they should be buying from Apple when there's so much negative news out there," said Richard Zwetchkenbaum, an analyst at the market researcher International Data Corp.

In the quarter that ended in September, Apple's share of the personal-computer market worldwide fell to 5.4 percent from 8.7 percent in the same quarter a year ago, according to a recent Apple filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the United States, its share fell to 7.3 percent from 13.2 percent.

Meanwhile, Apple faces increased competition from PCs based on Intel Corp.'s Pentium microprocessors. Intel will release in a few weeks a new Pentium with so-called MMX technology, can handle computer graphics and sounds much better than before.

Tim Bajarin, president of the market research firm Creative Strategies International Corp., said some consumers may have put off buying Macintosh Performas to wait for PCs based on Intel's MMX chips. The Performas have long been a favored brand for running multimedia software.

"It is an image problem," Mr. Bajarin said. "Apple has not been able to convince the consumer that the software developers are coming back, and has not been able to convince them that Apple will be around in the future."

Mr. Amelio will outline his company's strategy to Macintosh customers and programmers at the Macworld trade show Tuesday in San Francisco.

(Reuters, AP, Bloomberg)

China Signals Strategy to Streamline Lagging Coal Sector

Reuters

BEIJING — China will restructure and streamline its coal industry this year, merging major companies into more efficient groups to increase exports by the world's largest coal producer, state media said Sunday.

The restructuring is seen raising exports to 40 million tons a year by the end of the century, up from 30 million tons in 1996, the China Daily Business Weekly said, quoting Wang Changchun, president of the China National Coal Import & Export Corp.

China's coal output was estimated at 1.35 billion tons in 1996, up 4.6 percent from the previous year, making it the world's biggest coal producer.

The newspaper said that China would gather 14 state-owned coal companies into four groups to increase the competitiveness of an industry that was being forced to learn to compete in China's fledgling market economy.

The groups would be responsible for trade, use of coal, construction and equipment manufacturing, it said.

The first group, the China Coal Industry Import & Export Group, would be formed in April, merging four companies, including the National Coal Import & Export Corp, it said. The group's annual sales were expected to be 1.7 billion yuan ($204.1 million) this year, the newspaper said.

Schedules for forming the other three organizations — the China Coal Comprehensive Utility Group, the China Coal Construction & Development Group and China Coal Materials & Equipment Group — had yet to be completed, it said, quoting Zhao Baoming, deputy minister for coal.

To lift exports, China would set up transport companies able to move 40 million tons of coal a year, it said. Mining and transport are supervised separately by the ministries of coal industry and railways.

The umbrella groups formed after the restructuring would control shares of their subsidiaries and share the profits, the newspaper said.

The coal industry in China is chronically inefficient with only 55 of the 93 key state-owned coal mines able to post a profit last year. In the previous year only 26 had been profitable, officials have said.

China has said it would open at least 300 coal projects to foreign investors and would give priority to projects in power plants, coal transport facilities and coal-bed methane.

It has not said whether investors could export their output.

■ City of Beijing Soft on Taiwan?

The city of Beijing has called on municipal departments to cut red tape in a bid to raise investment from Taiwan, the Xinhua news agency said, Reuters reported.

The Beijing Municipal People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body, had issued a report urging the city government to set up a special office to handle investment from the island and reduce bureaucratic hurdles, according to Xinhua's report.

Priority should be given to high-technology firms, it added.

China views Taiwan as a renegade province and has threatened to use force to reunify the island.

Taiwan bans direct trade and investment, but it has allowed contacts made through third territories such as Hong Kong.

President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan said last year the island should curtail its investments in China to avoid economic reliance on the mainland.

Some 1,450 Taiwanese companies had invested a total of $1.8 billion in Beijing by the end of September 1996, with most of those funds going into electronics, clothing, food, petrochemicals and machine-building, Xinhua said.

CYBERSCAPE

Web Site for Amateur Movie Critics

By Rob Pegoraro
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — One person's advice is usually another's annoyance. But put together 30, 300 or 3,000 people's opinions and you might have something worth listening to. That's the idea behind sites on the World Wide Web that aim to provide personalized movie-going recommendations: Give your opinions on a dozen movies or so, and you'll get an informed recommendation on whether to see "Trees Lounge" or "Twister."

The technology in question goes by the moniker of "collaborative filtering." At its heart, it is an enlightened form of peer pressure: Find people who like and dislike the same things you do as much as you do, and it should be a safe bet that you will agree with their recommendations.

"It's just like being in a movie-rental store and hearing people say different things, except it happens around the world," said Max Metral, chief technology officer of Firefly Networks, the parent company of the leading Web site in this category, Firefly.

The whole business is not about trying to get a computer to think like a human being, he emphasizes. "This is the general problem of AI," or artificial intelligence. "We don't know how we think," he said. "What collaborative filtering as a field says is: 'I know we do think. Let's leverage that.'"

The Firefly site, like almost every other innovation on the Web, it seems, was originally a gleam in a grad student's eye, in this case at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Early experiments in using collaborative filtering to generate music recommendations eventually led to the current Firefly Web site, http://www.ffly.com, with "well over 500,000" registered users, according to a company spokesman.

What's it like to use? Well, the reality is not quite as elegant as you might want. After being asked to rate a series of films, including both classics like "Citizen Kane" and such obscurities as "Jesus of Montreal," on a scale of one ("hate it!") to seven ("the best"), you should be able to get pointers to quality movies in your choice of genre and time frame. In two weeks of heavy use, however, I was not able to get a single recommendation; instead, like a child tugging at his parent's leg, the site kept insisting that I rate more movies first.

Firefly's competitor, Movie Critic (http://www.moviecritic.com), may not have the same high profile, but at least it did generate some recommendations right off the bat. The site, a project of Web developers Songline Studios, looks and works very much like Firefly, although it does not let a user ask for advice on movies of particular genres or by particular artists.

My request for pointers to current movies generated a list of 20 films. Some were utterly obvious suggestions, like "Star Trek: First Contact," some were the kind of intriguing low-budget movies I keep forgetting to see, like John Sayles's "Lone Star," and some were a mystery — "Microcosmos," a French-language documentary on insects, and "Evita."

Granted, this came after I had rated only 23 movies (the site will not generate recommendations until a user has rated 12).

And with some 30,000 registered users, Movie Critic's sample size may not be large enough to accommodate all users.

The site's project manager, Rebecca Cherkoss, said the site should be "90 percent accurate" in recommending movies, although she added the inevitable clarification, "It depends on taste."

In both sites' cases, though, the best potential may be not in giving moviegoing advice, but in just introducing people with similar tastes to each other.

The site is littered with chat rooms and discussion forums, and nearly every page comes with a button to list people who like the same movies/music/artists as you — and Firefly users contacted by e-mail agreed on that advantage.

Internet address: Cyberscape@iht.com

CURRENCY RATES

Jan. 3

Cross Rates

	$	£	DM	FF	Lira	DFl	BF	SF	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.747	2.955	1.1226	0.3392	0.1141	—	5.4485	1.3908	1.5922	1.2695	1.3355
Brussels	31.885	53.91	20.485	6.1885	2.0827	18.257	—	25.68	0.2757	23.22	24.457
Frankfurt	1.5489	2.6201	—	0.2963	0.1017	0.8909	4.8535	1.3491	1.2887	1.1258	1.1869
London (a)	1.6918	—	2.6349	0.3963	0.1349	0.9641	5.2519	1.4599	1.3944	1.2183	1.2839
Madrid	136.696	231.595	84.255	24.96	8.566	75.057	408.894	96.697	112.718	95.81	—
Milan	1,623.30	2,584.00	983.50	291.65	—	874.00	4,760.00	1,130.00	13,175	1,165.80	11,486
New York (b)	—	1.6077	1.566	0.2915	1,539.00	1.2577	22.27	1.3965	114.20	1.1707	131.80
Paris	5.2263	8.878	3.3579	—	0.3432	3.0971	0.1638	3.8743	4.516	3.8566	4.0865
Tokyo						Closed					
Toronto	1.3712	2.3481	0.8763	0.2594	0.0891	0.7888	0.0347	0.8897	1.2777	—	1.047
Zurich	1.3147	2.2916	0.87	0.2575	0.0885	0.7763	0.2723	—	1.1657	0.9928	1.1337
1 ECU	1.2539	0.7196	1.9453	4.566	1,813.26	2.1305	46.0759	1.4948	1.4539	1.2249	163.077
1 SDR	1.4402	0.8457	2.2266	7.3892	n.a.	2.4495	45.9048	n.a.	n.a.	1.3994	167.238

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris, Toronto and Zurich, listings in other centers.
a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar. "Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
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Australian $	1.2607	Hong Kong $	7.7343	N. Zealand $	1.4332	S. Kor. won	844.35
Austrian sch.	10.904	Hung. forint	161.03	Norw. krone	6.4156	Swed. krona	6.8969
Brazil real	1.039	Indian rupee	35.93	Phil. peso	26.28	Taiwan $	27.49
Chinese yuan	8.3284	Indo. rupiah	2361.48	Polish zloty	2.87	Thai baht	25.70
Czech koruna	27.23	Irish £	0.5968	Port. escudo	155.18	Turkish lira	167775.
Danish krone	5.9225	Israeli shek.	3.243	Russ ruble	5747.13	UAE dirham	3.672
Egypt. pound	3.592	Kuw dinar	0.30	Saudi riyal	3.7505	Venez. bolív.	475.75
Fin. markka	4.6481	Malay. ring.	2.5239	Sing. $	1.3992		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6949	1.6936	1.6921	Japanese yen	115.47	114.96	114.55
Canadian dollar	1.3728	1.3754	1.3677	Swiss franc	1.3449	1.3411	1.3369
Deutsche mark	1.5470	1.5441	1.5408				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

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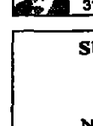
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Herald International Tribune

Uncertainty About U.S. Economic Strength Likely to Keep Bonds Jittery

Bridge News

NEW YORK — The Treasury bond market is likely to be on edge this week, waiting to see whether U.S. unemployment data Friday confirm the economic strength shown in a series of numbers last week.

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond skidded last week in response to some unexpectedly healthy economic reports. The yield finished at 6.73 percent, up from 6.54 percent the previous week. But analysts said the real test for bonds would come this week.

After worrying all autumn that U.S. consumers would go wild during the holiday shopping season, the market was blindsided in recent days by reports showing strength in housing and manufacturing. The bond market started to go lower Tuesday on the 1.4 percent jump in November new home sales, and continued to sell off Thursday when the National Association of Purchasing Management's December index posted an increase, instead of the decline economists had predicted.

The numbers suggested the economy did better than expected in late 1996 and has enough momentum to keep going in

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

early 1997. Bond traders took particular notice of the jump in the price component of the December purchasers' report, and it seemed that the inflation fears the market set aside in autumn might be coming back to haunt it.

But bullish participants argue that the sell-off was exaggerated because so many investors were absent, which allowed the sellers to dominate.

Bill Stevens, a managing director of fixed-income at Montgomery Asset Management, said that although indicators were showing an increase in activity, "it wasn't a huge increase, and 6.70 percent looks pretty attractive."

He said the numbers suggested that the economy was growing at a rate of 2.5 percent and estimated that the market was still 20 to 30 basis points too cheap.

The market now awaits the release of jobless statistics.

The consensus calls for a moderate 170,000 increase in December payrolls after the 118,000 gain in November, and a 0.2 percent rise in December hourly earnings, down from the jump of 0.8 percent in November wages.

Donald Maude, chief U.S. fixed-income strategist at Scotia Capital Markets, is looking for a payrolls gain of 198,000 in December, just above the consensus, and said a lot of the strength would come from the retail sector as the survey picks up jobs that were created too late to show up in the November report.

But Mr. Maude said that kind of jobs growth would not be anything to celebrate from the bond market's point of view, because it meant that jobs growth was outpacing the growth in the labor force by about 50,000 a month. Over the long run, that kind of growth will continue to push the unemployment rate lower and lead to worries about wage inflation, he said.

The only other big number to be released before the unemployment report is the December producer price report Thursday. The consensus calls for a moderate 0.3 percent rise in the overall index and a gain of just 0.2 percent in the core rate.

Traders also await the return of Japanese investors. Japanese markets have been closed since Dec. 30, and investors there missed the Treasury market's plunge Tuesday and Thursday. Many U.S. participants think the Japanese will be happy to buy at cheaper levels, especially because the dollar, which closed Friday at 116.33 yen in New York, is trading at its highest level in almost 4 years.

Mr. Stevens said the market might benefit next week not only from Japanese buying, but also from short-covering if prices do well enough to surprise pessimistic traders.

Andrew Cantor, head of taxable fixed income at Barnett Capital Advisors, said that while economic growth would remain bullish, he did not think it would be strong enough to push interest rates much higher.

"In fact, the growth in employment over the last 6 months has clearly decelerated," he said, adding that inflation was likely to continue to fluctuate around the 3 percent level.

Mr. Cantor said foreign buying of Treasuries should continue because U.S. rates still looked attractive compared with the yields available overseas. He said he saw a potential boost for bonds from efforts to legislate further reductions in the federal deficit.

Paul Kasriel, chief domestic economist for Northern Trust Co., takes the bearish position that the bond market was simply adjusting to economic realities as it sold off last week. "We're dealing with an economy that has been growing at or slightly above its perceived long-run potential now for several years, and gives every indication of continuing to do so," he said. "That means the risks are that the core rate of inflation is likely to drift up in 1997."

Despite his outlook on inflation, Mr. Kasriel does not expect any big uptick in the December producer price report due out Thursday, and he has forecast a moderate 150,000 increase in December nonfarm payrolls.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Jan. 3. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Austrian Schilling

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
207 Austria	6¼	05/31/06	102.2500	6.1100

Belgian Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
201 Belgium Tbills	zero	03/27/97	98.7099	5.8000

British Pound

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
164 Depfa Fin	7⅛	11/11/03	95.6250	7.4500
182 Britain	7	08/06/97	100.3120	6.9800
183 Abbey Natl TS	6	08/10/99	97.0000	6.1900
193 Halifax BS	8¾	07/10/06	102.5000	8.5400
213 Tokai Bank Ldn	6 1/16	02/03/97	98.9318	6.1300
223 Bayerische LB	7⅜	12/28/01	98.8750	7.4589
238 Salomon	6.906	11/26/01	99.5500	6.9400

Canadian Dollar

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
139 Canada	8	06/01/23	109.3500	7.3200
192 Canada	8¾	12/01/05	117.3320	7.4600
240 Canada	5¾	03/01/99	102.9420	5.5900

Danish Krone

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
1 Denmark	8	03/15/06	109.5100	7.3100
14 Denmark	9	11/15/98	108.4600	8.3000
17 Denmark	8	11/15/01	111.0500	7.2000
20 Denmark	9	11/15/00	113.7300	7.9100
26 Denmark	7	12/15/04	103.7500	6.7500
34 Denmark	7	11/10/24	94.0000	7.4500
45 Denmark	7	11/15/07	101.5700	6.8900
46 Denmark	8	05/15/03	110.5500	7.2400
70 Denmark	6	12/10/99	103.7600	5.7800
71 Denmark	7	02/15/98	103.4800	6.7600
77 Denmark	7	08/15/97	101.9500	6.8700
82 Denmark	6	02/15/99	103.7000	5.7900
94 Denmark	6	11/15/02	101.3600	5.9200
166 Nykredit 3 Cs	6	10/01/26	86.4300	6.9400
212 Real Kredit	6	10/01/26	86.8000	6.9100
242 Nykredit Bank	8	10/01/26	100.4800	7.9600

Deutsche Mark

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
2 Germany	6¼	04/26/06	102.5000	6.1000
3 Germany	6½	10/14/05	104.0943	6.2400
4 Germany	7¾	01/03/05	110.1833	6.6900
5 Treuhand	7½	09/09/04	110.9900	6.7600
6 Germany	8	01/21/02	113.3600	7.0600
7 Germany	5	08/20/01	101.6875	4.9200
8 Germany	8¾	07/20/00	114.1020	7.6700
10 Germany	8¼	09/20/01	113.9600	7.2400
12 Germany	5¼	02/21/01	102.5667	5.1200
13 Germany	5¾	08/22/00	104.5500	5.5000
15 Germany	6⅞	05/12/05	106.8500	6.4300
16 Germany	8⅞	12/20/00	115.3267	7.7000
18 Germany	8¾	08/20/01	115.8450	7.5500
21 Germany	6	01/05/06	100.6667	5.9600
22 Germany	7	12/22/97	103.5350	6.7600
24 Germany	8	07/22/02	113.7825	7.0300
25 Germany	6	02/16/06	100.6525	5.9600
27 Germany	5⅛	11/21/00	102.3500	5.0100
28 Germany	5	05/21/01	101.8233	4.9100
29 Germany	7½	11/11/04	111.0250	6.7600
30 Treuhand	7⅝	01/29/03	109.2100	6.5200
31 Treuhand	6⅝	07/09/03	106.3200	6.2300
32 Germany	3½	12/18/98	99.9000	3.5000
33 Germany	6¼	01/04/24	93.5786	6.6800
35 Germany	6½	07/15/03	105.7500	6.1500
36 Treuhand	7¾	10/01/02	112.3500	6.9000
37 Treuhand	6¾	05/13/04	106.6360	6.3300
38 Germany	7½	10/20/97	103.3400	7.2600
40 Germany	9	10/20/00	115.3900	7.8000
42 Germany	8¼	07/21/97	102.6800	8.0300
43 Germany	3½	09/18/98	100.0600	3.5000
44 Germany	6¾	04/22/03	107.1767	6.3000
48 Treuhand	7¼	12/02/02	110.6400	6.6700
49 Germany	8⅜	05/21/01	114.0733	7.3400
50 Germany	6	09/15/03	103.3025	5.8100
52 Treuhand	6½	04/23/03	105.8400	6.1400
54 Treuhand	6⅝	06/11/03	107.7050	6.3800
55 Germany	5⅝	05/15/00	104.9500	5.6000
56 Germany	6¾	07/15/04	106.6267	6.3300
57 Treuhand	6¼	03/04/04	103.7971	6.0200
58 Germany	6½	03/15/00	106.8425	6.0800
59 Treuhand	6⅜	07/01/99	105.9700	6.0200
60 Germany Tbills	zero	04/18/97	99.1140	3.0300
61 Germany	6⅝	01/20/98	103.4100	6.4100
62 Germany	6	06/20/16	93.5150	6.4200
63 Germany	8	09/22/97	103.3500	7.7400
64 Germany	7¼	10/20/97	103.1400	7.0300
68 Treuhand	6¼	07/29/99	105.8000	5.9100
72 Treuhand	6⅛	03/26/98	103.3500	5.9300
74 Germany	7⅜	02/21/00	110.3300	7.0200
75 Germany	7⅛	12/20/02	109.4525	6.5100
76 BA Credit Card	6	11/15/05	101.8500	5.8900
79 Germany	6¾	09/15/99	107.2700	6.2900
83 Germany	8½	02/20/01	114.1550	7.4500
85 Germany	5¾	08/20/98	103.6300	5.5500
86 Germany	6⅞	12/02/98	106.0600	6.4800
87 Germany	8	03/20/97	100.9800	7.9200
88 Treuhand	6	11/12/03	102.7700	5.8400
89 Cap Credit Card	5⅝	08/15/01	102.5912	5.4800
92 Germany	5¾	08/20/97	101.5600	5.6600
98 Germany	8⅜	01/20/97	100.2325	8.3600
104 Germany	7¼	10/21/02	110.0443	6.5900
107 Germany	7¼	01/20/00	106.8825	6.6600
109 Germany	5⅝	09/20/16	89.1786	6.3100
113 Treuhand	5	01/14/99	102.7100	4.8700
115 Germany	5¼	11/20/97	101.7500	5.1600
119 Germany	6¼	05/20/98	104.0200	6.1300
120 Germany	6⅛	05/20/99	105.4400	5.8100
123 Germany	5⅜	02/22/99	103.7000	5.1800
124 Germany	5¼	10/20/98	103.1200	5.0900
125 Germany	5½	05/20/97	100.8317	5.4500
127 Germany	9	01/22/01	115.9225	7.7600
129 Germany	6	02/20/98	102.9700	5.8300
131 Germany	6¼	08/14/98	104.5500	6.1000
132 Germany	8¾	05/22/00	113.8100	7.6900
133 Treuhand	5	12/17/98	102.6880	4.8700
136 Germany	7	01/13/00	108.1940	6.4700
153 Germany	8½	08/21/00	113.4300	7.4900
161 Germany	2.995	09/30/04	99.1000	3.0200
163 Nordrheinwest	6	12/20/06	100.0000	6.0000
171 Germany	6¾	05/02/03	106.4500	6.3400
172 Germany	6⅞	02/24/99	106.5600	6.4500
175 Germany	5¼	02/25/98	102.1900	5.1400
184 Bayer LB zent	6¾	08/03/05	104.8500	6.4400
186 Bundespost	7¾	10/01/04	111¾	6.9400
194 Treuhand	5⅝	09/24/98	103.5450	5.4300
195 Germany	6¾	01/20/99	106.0500	6.3600
206 KFW	5½	10/17/03	99.9500	5.5000
210 LB Rheinland	5¾	10/16/03	100.1110	5.7400
216 Germany	6⅝	05/20/97	101.1700	6.3000
217 Treuhand	7	11/25/99	108.1300	6.4700
219 Depfa Bank	4¾	11/13/01	99.1500	4.7900
233 Greece	6¾	11/13/06	100.0500	6.7500

Dutch Guilder

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
23 Netherlands	6	01/15/06	101.1000	5.9300
41 Netherlands	6¼	07/15/98	104.0500	6.0100
67 Netherlands	8½	06/01/06	118.6500	7.1600
73 Netherlands	9	01/15/01	115.8500	7.7700
90 Netherlands	7	06/15/05	108.0000	6.4800
95 Netherlands	7½	04/15/10	111.8500	6.7100
96 Netherlands	8¾	05/01/00	113½	7.7100
101 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/00	111.5500	7.4000
103 Netherlands	7	03/15/99	106.7300	6.5600
110 Netherlands	6½	04/15/03	106.3000	6.1100
114 Netherlands	7½	01/15/23	110.70	6.7800
121 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/02	114.6000	7.2000
128 Netherlands	5¾	01/15/04	101.3000	5.6800
137 Netherlands	7¼	10/01/04	110	6.5900
140 Netherlands	8¼	06/15/02	115	7.1700
141 Netherlands	7¾	01/15/00	110	7.0500
143 Netherlands	7	02/15/03	109.0500	6.4200
146 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/07	117.3000	7.0300
147 Netherlands	5¾	09/15/02	103.0000	5.5800
148 BNG	6½	10/30/06	102.1250	6.0000
155 Netherlands	6¼	02/15/99	106.0000	6.3700
170 Netherlands	6¾	11/15/05	106.3000	6.3500
174 Netherlands SP	zero	01/15/23	16.45	7.1700
178 CADES	6⅛	07/29/04	104.6650	6.0900
191 Netherlands	zero	03/27/97	98.6738	5.9700
211 Netherlands	8½	03/15/01	114.40	7.4300
215 Netherlands	zero	02/28/97	98.9153	7.2300
224 Netherlands	9	05/15/00	114.45	7.8600
230 Netherlands	7¾	03/01/05	112.9500	6.8600
250 Netherlands	7½	11/15/99	109.2500	6.8600

ECU

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
81 France OAT	7	04/25/06	106.9000	6.5500
100 France OAT	6	04/25/04	100.8000	5.9500
102 Britain	9¼	02/21/01	115⅛	7.9000
116 France BTAN	7¼	03/16/98	103.5200	7.0000
134 France OAT	7½	04/25/05	109.4500	6.8500
135 France OAT	9½	04/25/00	114.3000	8.3100
199 France OAT	6¾	04/25/02	106.3000	6.3500
205 France BTAN	5	03/16/99	101.6000	4.9200
225 France OAT	10	02/26/01	118.20	8.4600
226 France B.T.A.N.	6	03/16/01	104.3200	5.7500
228 Italy	9¼	03/07/11	123.5000	7.4900
239 Italy	8¼	07/26/98	100.1500	8.2400

Finnish Markka

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
156 Finland	10	09/15/01	121.0917	8.2600
235 Finland	9½	03/15/04	126.9915	7.4800

French Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
97 France OAT	zero	04/25/17	22.7000	7.5700
130 France OAT	6¾	10/25/04	107.5900	6.2700
150 France OAT	zero	04/25/19	19.3500	7.6300
152 France OAT	8½	11/25/02	117.3400	7.2400
185 France OAT	6	10/25/25	89.3500	6.7200
229 France OAT	6½	10/25/06	104.4200	6.2200

Italian Lira

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
122 Italy	8½	08/01/99	104.4800	8.1400
209 Italy	9½	12/01/99	107.5800	8.8300
231 Italy	9½	02/01/01	109.8300	8.6500
249 Italy	9½	01/01/05	112.4800	8.4500

Japanese Yen

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
11 Fuji Intl	¼	02/01/02	101.5000	0.2463
112 Seino Transport	⅛	03/31/04	100.0000	0.1300
176 ADB	3⅛	06/29/05	103.1250	3.0300
180 Asfinag		05/12/07	100.0000	
200 World Bank	5¼	03/20/02	116½	4.5100
214 World Bank	4½	03/20/03	113½	3.9600
244 Quebec	4.02	10/25/17	105.6303	3.8100

Portuguese Escudo

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
80 Bco Inv Imob		06/27/11	112.45	
165 Madeira		06/30/02	90.0000	
221 Bco Inv Imob	7⅛	06/30/08	101.5492	7.2625
222 Bco Inv Imob	7⅛	09/30/09	101.4964	7.0200

Spanish Peseta

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
145 Spain	10.15	01/31/06	121.3830	8.3600
181 Spain	10.10	02/28/01	114.8830	8.7900
189 Spain	11.30	01/15/02	121.6100	9.2900
202 Spain	10½	10/30/03	121.4000	8.6500
245 Spain	8.80	04/30/06	112.8450	7.8000

Swedish Krona

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
118 Sweden	11	01/21/99	112.3043	9.7900
160 Sweden 1036	10¼	05/05/00	115.3950	8.8800
247 Sweden	6	02/09/05	94.9868	6.3200

Swiss Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
243 Westpac Bking	2.137	06/30/98	99.9340	2.1400

U.S. Dollar

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
9 Brazil Cap S.L.	4½	04/15/14	81.4183	5.5300
19 Argentina FRN	6⅝	03/29/05	87.0000	7.6100
39 Brazil 910.0	6½	01/01/01	96.8800	6.7093
47 Brazil L	6½	04/15/06	87.4556	7.4300
51 Argentina par L	5¼	03/31/23	60.5169	8.6800
53 Venezuela	6½	12/18/07	86.4400	7.5197
65 Mexico	11½	05/15/26	104.5000	11.0000
66 Bulgaria	6 1/16	07/28/11	50.4949	13.2400
69 Brazil S.L.	6⅝	04/15/12	75.8800	8.6500
78 Venezuela par A	6¾	03/31/20	75.5938	8.9300
84 Mexico par B	6¼	12/31/19	73.1200	8.5500
91 Brazil par ZI	5	04/15/24	63.7917	7.8400
93 Bulgaria	6 11/16	07/28/24	56.2549	11.8900
99 Brazil S.ZI	6½	04/15/24	77.2855	8.4100
105 Argentina	5⅝	04/01/01	122.7500	4.6334
106 Italy	6⅛	09/27/23	94.7500	7.2600
108 Mydfa Trust	6 11/16	09/15/07	83.7247	7.9875
111 Mexico par A	6¼	12/31/19	74.1294	8.4300
117 EIB	zero	11/06/26	13½	6.9400
126 Ecuador	3	02/28/15	63.2092	4.7500
138 Brazil S.L.	6⅝	04/15/09	81.8717	8.0200
142 BNG	5⅝	12/27/00	99.7500	5.8900
144 Mexico A	6.453	12/31/19	86.1297	7.4900
149 Argentina L	6⅛	03/31/23	75.0861	8.4900
151 Mexico	7 9/16	08/06/01	100.2000	7.5500
154 Mexico D	6.352	12/28/19	86.0600	7.3800
157 Mexico C	6⅝	12/31/19	86.3854	7.3800
158 Argentina	11	10/09/06	103.2500	10.6500
159 Argentina	5.773	12/28/99	36.4688	15.8312
162 Brazil	4½	04/15/14	82.1330	5.4800
167 Credit Suisse	5.455	03/26/97	99.3697	5.4900
168 Poland	4	10/27/14	84.2667	4.7500
169 Bk Nova Scotia	5.473	12/16/99	99.8300	5.4800
173 Russia	9¼	11/27/01	96.7500	9.5600
177 Bulgaria	2¼	07/28/12	38.4575	5.8500
179 CADES	zero	01/19/97	97.1223	70.3800
187 Miura	3⅜	12/27/00	88.0320	4.4000
188 Ford Mot Credit	6⅞	06/05/01	100.5000	6.8400
190 MBL Intl Fin	3	11/30/02	106.0000	2.8300
196 Venezuela	6⅝	03/31/07	90.0804	7.1500
197 Mexico	11¾	09/15/16	103.7500	10.9600
198 BNP	6.207	12/31/99	99.3655	6.2500
203 Mexico	9¾	02/06/01	103.2500	9.4400
204 BTC Capital	6.348	12/30/26	97.3200	6.5223
208 Poland	6½	10/27/24	97.2133	6.6900
218 EIB	7⅛	09/18/06	103.2500	6.9000
220 Italy	9⅝	03/01/99	107.2500	8.9700
227 Fst USA Credit		02/11/02	100.3476	
232 Argentina	5 15/16	04/01/07	108.8000	5.2275
234 Ecuador par	3¼	02/28/25	46.3800	7.0100
236 Credito Italiano	5.56	01/30/97	99.4133	5.5900
237 Panama pdi	4	07/17/16	77.3800	5.1700
241 World Bank	9⅝	02/01/99	107.0000	9.0000
246 Den Norske Bk	5 9/16	10/15/99	99.5455	5.5900
248 Finland	6¼	11/24/97	100.7500	6.7000

Bank Loans Soar to Developing States

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BASEL, Switzerland — Lending by leading industrialized nations to developing countries surged by a record 6.59 percent, or $60.7 billion, in the first half of 1996 as European banks extended their dominance of international bank lending, the Bank for International Settlements said Sunday.

Industrial companies in emerging economies increasingly borrowed directly from major international banks, bypassing their domestic banking systems, the monitor of international banking markets said.

Lending from banks in industrial nations to developing nations totaled $920.6 billion by mid-1996, with flows to Asia setting a record while lending to Eastern Europe and Latin America was sustained, BIS said in its latest survey of international bank lending.

The surge in lending was encouraged by improved economic management in borrowing countries, as well as relatively low interest rates and weak corporate demand in industrial countries, both of which led major banks to look elsewhere for high returns.

European banks expanded their involvement in the developing world and raised their market share of all international lending to 54 percent, against 14.2 percent for North American banks and 18.2 percent for Japanese banks.

The Bank for International Settlements said North American international banking showed signs of recovery, including expanded activity in Eastern and Central European markets after having retrenched there to 1992 levels.

In contrast, growth in lending by Japanese banks to developing nations came to a virtual standstill.

European banks, which have been the most active in Latin America in the past decade, also overtook Japanese banks in the Asian region.

European banks — especially German, French, Dutch and British — raised their market share of lending to Asia to 40 percent in the first half from 36 percent at the end of 1994.

Japanese banks' share of Asian lending fell to 34 percent from 39 percent, while the share held by North American banks rose to 11 percent from 9 percent.

"This increased presence in Asia can be related not only to the liberalization of local financial markets and the dynamism of the region but also to the limited scope for expansion within Western Europe and the perceived difficulties in trying to access the U.S. market," BIS said.

New lending to Asia accelerated in the first half to a record $34.7 billion, with South Korea and Thailand accounting for more than half the total.

Most of the new lending in Asia went to the nonbank private sector, with its share of the total outstanding amounting to 48 percent. Worldwide, the nonbank sector accounted for a record 42 percent of outstanding loans, up from 38 percent at the end of 1994.

While banks in most European countries increased their lending to Latin America, Spanish banks ranked first in new lending.

BIS reported that 13 percent of all outstanding international loans by Spanish banks to nonindustrialized countries were to Mexican borrowers, well above the 6.9 percent share for British and French banks.

But Spanish banks continue to lag U.S. and other European banks in total lending to Mexico, which owes $57.1 billion to banks in industrialized countries whose banks report to BIS.

U.S. banks account for almost a third of the outstanding total, well above French banks, the second largest group at 11.3 percent. Spanish banks rank sixth with 5.2 percent.

The countries that report to BIS are Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

(Reuters, AFP)

Mexico to Launch a $1 Billion Issue

Reuters

NEW YORK — Taking advantage of the abundant liquidity in the international capital markets, Mexico is racing to offer a $1 billion global bond issue in the new year.

The proposed new issue will be a fixed-rate, dollar-denominated issue that would mature in 10 years, with Merrill Lynch & Co. and Salomon Brothers Inc. as joint lead managers.

Mexico has five-year, 20-year and 30-year global bonds outstanding and the 10-year issue would fill the gap on the yield curve, said Tulio Vera, a managing director at Bear, Stearns & Co. "It is a logical choice."

Judging by the price of Mexico's quasi-sovereign Eurobond of similar maturity, which trades at 320 basis points over comparable U.S. Treasuries, the new issue is likely to be priced slightly tighter, he said.

The proposed jumbo global issue is timed to cash in on the still ample liquidity in the international capital market, Mr. Vera noted.

"The market is receptive to emerging market sovereigns," he said. "It should be well received."

With local and congressional elections due to take place in Mexico this summer, market jitters could also complicate capital-raising efforts, traders said.

Recent volatility in the U.S. Treasury market added a further element of uncertainty in the pricing, but the risk is perceived lower now than in the second half of the year if the yield for the U.S. long bond continues to trend higher, they said.

The economic recovery in Mexico has made the country a strong candidate for a credit upgrade, which could happen as early as this spring, one trader said.

"We are upbeat on Mexico's fundamentals," she said, noting that the market usually prices in an upgrade six to nine months before it is actually awarded.

Mexico has been given a BB rating by Standard & Poor's Corp. and a Ba2 rating by Moody's Investors Service Inc.

Traders said the announcement of the new bond nudged some other Mexican issues higher in a quiet market.

"It focused attention on Mexico," said a trader, noting that the coming road shows and publicity surrounding the launch would invariably highlight the positive aspects of Mexico's economy and push the prices of existing debt higher.

INVEST: *Money Managers See Allure in Some Old-World Stocks*

Continued from Page 11

pressure on wages "is keeping the cost side of the equation very subdued."

Then there is the issue of European integration, with planned monetary union at the beginning of 1999. Many international-fund managers say they think this will eventually prove a moderate plus for stock markets — and a welcome step toward simpler hedging of currency.

But money managers fret that in the short run the need to meet qualifying standards for monetary union has meant policies of deficit reduction and of reluctance to cut interest rates to spur growth.

"It could be a fairly austere year from a government-spending point of view," Mr. Gerding said. He added that he saw only "a decent environment" in 1997, *with most European economies* "not robust at all."

Still, Mr. Gerding and portfolio managers who are more generally encouraged about prospects for investing in Europe find plenty of interesting corporate situations, especially in France and Germany.

Mr. Gerding is particularly fond these days of Volkswagen AG, which shows strong revenue growth and expanding operating margins, and Guilbert SA, a large French distributor of office products whose earnings he expects to climb 25 percent annually for the next few years. He also likes Baan Co., a Dutch software company.

Carol Franklin, lead manager of the $2.5 billion Scudder International fund, praises the way Hoechst AG, the German pharmaceutical company, has embraced the idea of spin-offs and job cuts in an effort to please stockholders, whom she called "a new life form" to many European managements.

"Shareholders have not been the highest priority" in much of Europe, where governments and unions play major roles in business decision making, Ms. Franklin said. But now "this is changing — because it has to," she said.

Ms. Franklin also likes the way Europeans have begun to outsource various *corporate functions, such as computer* services; one of her favorite companies in this area is Getronics NV, a Dutch concern.

This trend is related to the aggressive sell-off of state enterprises that reached a record $43 billion last year and that J.P. Morgan & Co. predicts will jump 23 percent in 1997.

But some of the favorable trends may prove glacially slow, or shy on substance. Perhaps, as Mr. Gerding says, much of the most appealing privatization has already occurred.

But this has not discouraged stockpickers like Robert Q. Wyckoff Jr. and his colleagues at Tweedy, Browne in New York. They are adept at finding opportunity regardless of larger trends that might be ominous for the market, like the rising interest rates that some see for Europe in 1997 or the likelihood of a Labour Party victory in British elections.

"We've found more bargains in second-tier stocks in Western Europe than probably anywhere else around the world," Mr. Wyckoff said, noting that he has also been encouraged by more accounting standardization there and a new-found activism among institutional stockholders. About 60 percent of the Tweedy Browne Global Value Fund, not counting the 9 percent in cash, is invested in Western Europe, with particular emphasis on Switzerland.

Two favorites of Tweedy, Browne's are Edipresse SA, a Swiss newspaper chain selling at eight times earnings and less than half the firm's estimate of its worth, and Franco Tosi SpA, an Italian water distribution and packaging company with a huge bundle of cash equal to more than twice its selling price. Tweedy also has long had a big stake in Nestle SA, the Swiss food giant.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Jan. 6-10

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Americas
Expected This Week	**Manila:** The Asian Institute of Management and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce sponsor a business seminar, "Partnering with the Japanese." Tuesday to Friday; PCI Leasing & Finance Corp. listed on the stock exchange.	**Bonn:** Industrial production data for November. **Madrid:** Labor Ministry expected to publish December unemployment figures; December new car sales. **Vienna:** Nomura International PLC opens international bond conference. Thursday to Saturday.	**Burbank, California:** Walt Disney Co. expected to file shareholder proxy statement. **Detroit:** North American International Auto Show. Until Wednesday. **Las Vegas:** International Winter Consumer Electronics Show. Thursday to Sunday.
Monday Jan. 6	**Hong Kong:** British Chamber of Commerce hosts chairman Patrick Paul's first policy address. **Manila:** Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System deadline for companies submitting bids to operate it.	**Bern:** November retail sales figures; December jobless figures. **Paris:** Bus shuttles restart in the Channel tunnel; Patrick Faure, commercial manager of Renault, holds press conference.	**Dearborn, Michigan:** Ford Motor Co. reports December auto sales. **Washington:** U.S. Agriculture Department releases weekly report on planting progress; Nasdaq holds briefing on new order-handling rules.
Tuesday Jan. 7	**Hong Kong:** Construction output figures for third quarter 1996; volume and price statistics of external trade for October. **Annual meetings:** Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.	**Frankfurt:** Bundesbank to call for bids on securities repurchases **Rome:** Final gross domestic figure for third-quarter 1996. **Vienna:** December and year-end wholesale price report; December unemployment report.	**New York:** Johnson Redbook research service releases weekly survey of total U.S. sales at more than 20 department, discount and chain stores. **Washington:** November factory orders.
Wednesday Jan. 8	**Annual meeting:** Greater Asia Resources Corp.	**Frankfurt:** Bundesbank to allot securities repurchases; Deutsche Bank AG holds press conference on new domestic banking structure. **Paris:** Court ruling on Air Liberte takeover by British Airways. **Stockholm:** December jobless data.	**San Jose, California:** Semiconductor Industry Association releases monthly book-to-bill ratio for December. **Washington:** Mortgage applications report; Federal Reserve System reports November consumer credit.
Thursday Jan. 9	**Manila:** Department of Public Works & Highways awards the contract for an extension of South Luzon Expressway. **Tokyo:** Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke to meet with Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka.	**Frankfurt:** Bundesbank policy-making council meets. Nuremberg: December unemployment figures. **Madrid:** October industrial data. **Paris:** December consumer confidence survey.	**Washington:** Labor Department reports initial weekly state unemployment compensation insurance claims; Federal Reserve System reports weekly money supply data. Commerce Department reports November wholesale trade.
Friday Jan. 10	**Hong Kong:** Employment statistics for September. **Tokyo:** U.S.-Japan aviation talks resume; Bank of Japan announces principal figures of financial institutions. The data include loans and deposits.	**Frankfurt:** European Monetary Institute presents report on the operational framework of the European System of Central Banks. **Oslo:** December consumer prices **Stockholm:** November trade balance.	**Fayetteville, Arkansas:** Tyson Foods Inc. holds annual meeting. Washington: Labor Department reports December unemployment figures; Federal Reserve System releases weekly report on commercial and industrial loans.

Last Week's Markets

Stock Indexes

United States	Jan. 3	Dec. 27	% Ch'ge
DJ Indus.	6,544.09	6,560.91	—0.26
DJ Util.	231.48	235.95	—1.89
DJ Trans.	2,248.89	2,287.49	—1.70
S & P 100	729.99	736.64	—0.90
S & P 500	748.03	756.79	—1.16
S & P Ind	880.30	887.99	—0.87
NYSE Cp	394.06	398.10	—1.01
Nasdaq Cp	1,305.95	1,291.38	+1.13
Japan			
Nikkei 225	19,361.35	19,369.04	—0.04
Britain			
FTSE 100	4,089.50	4,091.00	—0.04
Canada			
TSE Indus.	5,919.49	5,902.61	+0.29
France			
CAC 40	2,282.76	2,306.95	—1.05
Germany			
DAX	2,859.28	2,852.88	+ 0.22
Hong Kong			
Hang Seng	13,222.79	13,404.14	—1.35
World			
MSCIP	814.04	820.94	—0.84

World Index from Morgan Stanley Capital Int'l Perspective.

Money Rates

United States	Jan. 3	Dec. 27
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8¼	8¼
Federal funds rate	5.00	5.00
Japan		
Discount	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.42	0.44
3-month interbank	0.56	0.50
Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6⅛	6.00
3-month interbank	6 5/16	6 5/16
France		
Intervention rate	3.15	3.15
Call money	3¼	3¼
3-month interbank	3⅜	3 5/16
Germany		
Lombard	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.12	3.30
3-month interbank	3.15	3.15

Gold	Jan. 3	Dec. 27	% Ch'ge
London p.m. fix.$	364.00	369.40	-1.46

Euromarts

Eurobond Yields

	Jan. 3	Dec. 27	Yr high	Yr low
U.S. $, long term	6.58	6.47	6.58	6.53
U.S. $, mdm term	6.13	6.03	6.13	6.10
U.S. $, short term	6.01	5.87	6.01	6.01
Pounds sterling	7.53	7.44	7.53	7.51
French francs	4.87	4.98	4.98	4.87
Italian lire	7.23	7.29	7.24	7.23
Danish kroner	5.55	5.65	5.55	5.54
Swedish kroner	5.19	5.50	5.19	5.18
ECUs, long term	6.14	6.16	6.14	6.14
ECUs, mdm term	4.96	5.07	4.96	4.96
Can. $	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80
Aus. $	7.25	7.21	7.25	7.19
N.Z. $	7.25	7.24	7.25	7.19
Yen	1.85	1.80	1.85	1.84

Source: Luxembourg stock exchange.

Weekly Sales

Jan. 2

Primary Market

	Cedel Bk $	Cedel Bk Non$	Euroclear $	Euroclear Non$
Straights	—	6.0	366.8	71.7
Convert.	—	—	—	172.6
FRNs	190.5	283.7	450.5	—
ECP	4,565.7	4,648.9	2,828.0	2,396.0
Total	4,756.2	4,938.6	3,645.3	2,640.3

Secondary Market

	Cedel Bk $	Cedel Bk Non$	Euroclear $	Euroclear Non$
Straights	7,081.9	12,074.7	20,666.1	12,556.1
Convert.	294.8	292.2	1,003.5	7,290.7
FRNs	8,543.2	5,159.4	19,973.9	3,797.5
ECP	7,833.0	10,157.8	7,650.7	10,313.4
Total	23,752.9	27,684.1	49,294.2	33,957.7

Source: Euroclear, Cedel Bank.

Libor Rates

	1-month	3-month	6-month
U.S. $	5⅜	5½	5⅝
Deutsche mark	3⅛	3¼	3¼
Pound sterling	6¼	6 5/16	6 7/16
French franc	3¼	3 5/16	3⅜
ECU	4⅛	4 1/16	4 3/16
Yen	½	½	½

Sources: Lloyds Bank, Reuters.

Korea's Public Workers Delay Joining Strikes

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — South Korea's outlawed Korea Confederation of Trade Unions said Sunday it would delay strikes by some public-sector union workers to minimize inconvenience to the public.

The confederation had said earlier that unions at state-run corporations, the subway system, hospitals and broadcasting companies would join other strikers beginning Tuesday.

But a spokesman for the confederation, Kim Yoo Sun, said Sunday: "We decided to postpone strikes at subways, the state-run Korea Telecom and the Korea Mint Corp. Our enemy is the Kim Young Sam government and not the people."

He did not say when they might join the strikes.

Thousands of unionized workers staged rallies in big cities on Sunday, including Seoul and Pusan, to back their demand for the repeal of a controversial labor law that gives employers the right to lay off employees, hire temporary workers and replace strikers.

Witnesses said the number of protesters had dropped sharply from Saturday, when about 96,000 workers at 46 South Korean companies, including Kia Motors Corp. and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., had turned out for demonstrations.

About 200 unions with 230,000 members at major carmakers, shipbuilders and financial institutions will go on strike Monday morning as scheduled, the confederation said.

"From Tuesday, workers at hospitals and broadcasting companies will join in the work stoppage," said Mr. Kim.

The confederation and the nation's largest union group, the Federation of Korea Trade Unions, said they would escalate industrial action until the government repeals the law.

The two umbrella union groups between them claim membership of 1.7 million in most of South Korea's major industries and public-sector services.

The government has argued that changes in the law would benefit unions and employers by creating a more flexible labor market.

The strikes erupted on Dec. 26 after the ruling New Korea Party pushed through the new labor law during a clandestine session of Parliament.

The stoppages, which affected car and ship production, hospitals and subways, were suspended until after the New Year holidays in a goodwill gesture to the public. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

Manila Sets a Plan to Divide And Sell Off Power Generation

Reuters

MANILA — National Power Corp. of the Philippines plans to set up seven power-generating companies and sell them to the private sector as part of its privatization program, the state-owned company said in documents released Sunday.

Guido Delgado, president of National Power, said that its power-generation business would be taken over by the seven companies with four intended to serve the main island of Luzon and three handling power for the central and southern islands.

Ownership of those power-generating companies would then be offered to the private sector.

The transmission of power, however, will remain a state monopoly because major grids still have to be connected, Mr. Delgado said.

National Power currently controls both power generation and power transmission in the Philippines.

Mr. Delgado said that the privatization program of National Power depended on passage by the Philippine Congress of a law sanctioning a restructuring of the power sector.

He said that the bill was likely to be passed this year.

MILLS: *China's Textile Workers Lose Jobs*

Continued from Page 1

found work largely because they prove willing to put up with the same kinds of working conditions that sparked the uprisings in Shanghai in the 1920s.

Factory owners — some private from abroad, others from various sectors of the Chinese government in joint ventures — have set up manufacturing plants in outlying, rural areas around Anhui and other nearby provinces. Workers there draw between $38 and $76 a month, compared with the average Shanghai wage of more than $100. Adding to the irony, many of the new plants have been started up by overseas Chinese from Hong Kong and elsewhere — scions of wealthy families that fled Shanghai when the textile workers and their revolution triumphed along with Mao.

In addition, the Chinese government has initiated a "go West" program seeking to move textile manufacturing from its historical center in Shanghai to places where raw materials such as cotton, wool and silk are produced. This reduces transport and cuts production costs, making Chinese textiles more competitive, Wu Wenying, president of the China National Textile Council, said at a conference in Beijing last week.

The Shanghai Heqing Embroidery and Garment Factory was among the first to catch the new wave. It was founded in 1979 by the peasants of Heqing Township, about an hour's drive east of central Shanghai and well beyond the new municipal industrial area of Pu Dong. After starting with a handful, the factory now employs 2,800 workers.

Zhang Hui Ming, 42, an assistant manager, said the work force comes almost exclusively from towns and rural areas even farther from Shanghai than Heqing. Mostly young men, the workers sign three-year contracts that provide for salaries below the Shanghai level and few of the social benefits such as job security and health care that were the main attraction of Shanghai's creaky state-owned factories.

"The workers there had nothing to worry about," he said. "They had health care, social security and other benefits. But here, the workers are from the surrounding provinces, and they have no such security. If the factory loses, they lose, too. So workers here work enthusiastically."

Mr. Zhang and his fellow managers have guided the Heqing enterprise to sales of $12.5 million a year, speaking the language of "realignment" and "flexibility." They recently opened a sales office in San Francisco.

When the Heqing workers get restive about their low wages, Mr. Zhang said, the factory plans to move farther out in the country. A lease already has been signed for a potential site in a distant province where the wages are even lower.

"Our system is getting closer to the capitalist system," Mr. Zhang said. "The boss can choose the worker, and the boss can fire the worker. The worker can also fire the boss — by just leaving."

Miss Tian, who cooked in her satin factory's employee cafeteria, found this out the hard way, when a plant manager came to her door one morning and explained the job she had held for 16 years was gone.

In a way, however, Miss Tian was one of the lucky ones. Her husband, who works in a machine tool factory, has retained the family's two-room apartment as part of his benefits. So they have remained in their home in Shanghai's Liang Chung neighborhood, and their 14-year-old son has stayed in school.

But the health care has ended. The last time Miss Tian went to a hospital for a shot, she paid $8 and applied for a reimbursement. Nothing has come, and she expects nothing will.

"The people at the factory said they would continue with the health care," she said. "But I guess they don't have the money."

Disney Faces Lawsuit As Ovitz Leaves Early

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LOS ANGELES — Michael Ovitz left as president of Walt Disney Co. on Dec. 27, a month earlier than expected, and his multimillion-dollar severance package was paid then, the company said.

When Disney announced Mr. Ovitz's departure on Dec. 12, it said he would remain president until Jan. 31. But Tom Deegan, a Disney spokesman, said over the weekend that the company later agreed that Mr. Ovitz, 50, could leave earlier and still receive the severance package.

Stockholders filed suit against Disney in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, contending that Mr. Ovitz did not deserve a multimillion-dollar severance package for his 14-month tenure as Disney's No. 2 executive.

Mr. Ovitz received about $38 million in cash severance and the rest in stock options. The stockholders claim the total package is valued at $130 million or more.

Mr. Deegan said the suit was without merit. He declined to give details about Mr. Ovitz's severance package, but a spokesman for Mr. Ovitz said last month that the package contained $50 million in cash and $40 million in stock options.

Mr. Deegan said details of the severance package would be disclosed in the company's annual proxy statement this week. He did not say when the proxy would be released.

The lawsuit filed Friday says that Mr. Ovitz, the former talent agent once heralded as Hollywood's most powerful dealmaker, was "undistinguished and unproductive" as Disney's president.

Mr. Ovitz had difficulty adjusting to his roll as No. 2 to Michael Eisner, the chairman of Disney and a longtime friend of Mr. Ovitz's. Studio executives said Mr. Ovitz bore the brunt of the blame for some highly publicized missteps, including clashes with top Disney officials.

But shareholders said Disney's decision not to pick a successor for Mr. Ovitz showed "the lack of any real need for the position Ovitz had been selected to fill and Ovitz's failure, throughout the course of his employment as Disney's president, to undertake or provide any significant service," according to the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs claimed a breach of fiduciary responsibility and waste, and asked the court to freeze the severance agreement until the lawsuit is resolved. They also asked for unspecified damages.

The suit called the severance "so egregiously excessive as to constitute waste and spoliation of Disney's resources."

The suit was filed against 13 current and former Disney officers and directors.

The defendants include Mr. Eisner, Mr. Ovitz, Vice Chairman Roy Disney, and Stephen Bollenbach, the former chief financial officer who is now chief executive of Hilton Hotels Corp.

The suit asks that the payment be held off until the lawsuit is resolved.

But Mr. Deegan said the suit was "late in calling for injunctive relief in that Ovitz's employment officially ended on Dec. 27, and severance was paid at that time."

There has been no word on Mr. Ovitz's post-Disney plans. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

SHORT COVER

Highlands Proposes Spin-Off Deal With Placer

BRISBANE, Australia (Bloomberg) — Highlands Gold Ltd. offered on Sunday to sell its 25 percent stake in the Porgera gold mine in Papua New Guinea to Canada's Placer Dome Inc. and to spin off the rest of its assets into a new company to be called Highlands Pacific Ltd.

The offer is the response to a takeover bid for Highlands from Placer Dome and a subsequent proposal from the Canadian miner to buy just the Porgera stake. Placer Dome recently offered Highlands stockholders 75 Australian cents (60 U.S. cents) a share for the whole company.

Highlands Gold is proposing that all shares in the company that are not owned by Placer Dome be canceled in exchange for a payment of 65 cents plus one share in Highlands Pacific for each Highlands Gold share. Placer Dome said it controlled 40.8 percent of Highlands Gold on Dec. 30.

Schneider's Lawyers Say He Faces Charges

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Lawyers for Juergen Schneider, blamed for one of the most spectacular corporate collapses in German history, said Sunday that German prosecutors had filed criminal charges against the disgraced property tycoon.

Mr. Schneider's lawyer, Christoph Rueckel, did not detail the charges, but he has said they would include fraud, falsifying documents and fraudulent bankruptcy.

Frankfurt prosecutors will hold a news conference Monday to announce details of the charges against Mr. Schneider, whose property empire collapsed in April 1994 under the weight of some 5 billion Deutsche marks ($3.23 billion) in debt. A trial is not expected to start before mid-1997.

Fed Governor Hints at Steady Rate Outlook

NEW ORLEANS (Bloomberg) — The U.S. economy is growing slowly enough to keep the Federal Reserve Board from raising its target for the federal funds rate on overnight bank loans soon, Laurence Meyer, a governor at the Federal Reserve Board, suggested Sunday.

After expanding at close to a 3 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter of 1996, growth in gross domestic product should slow to a rate of 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent rate this year and next, Mr. Meyer said at a conference in New Orleans.

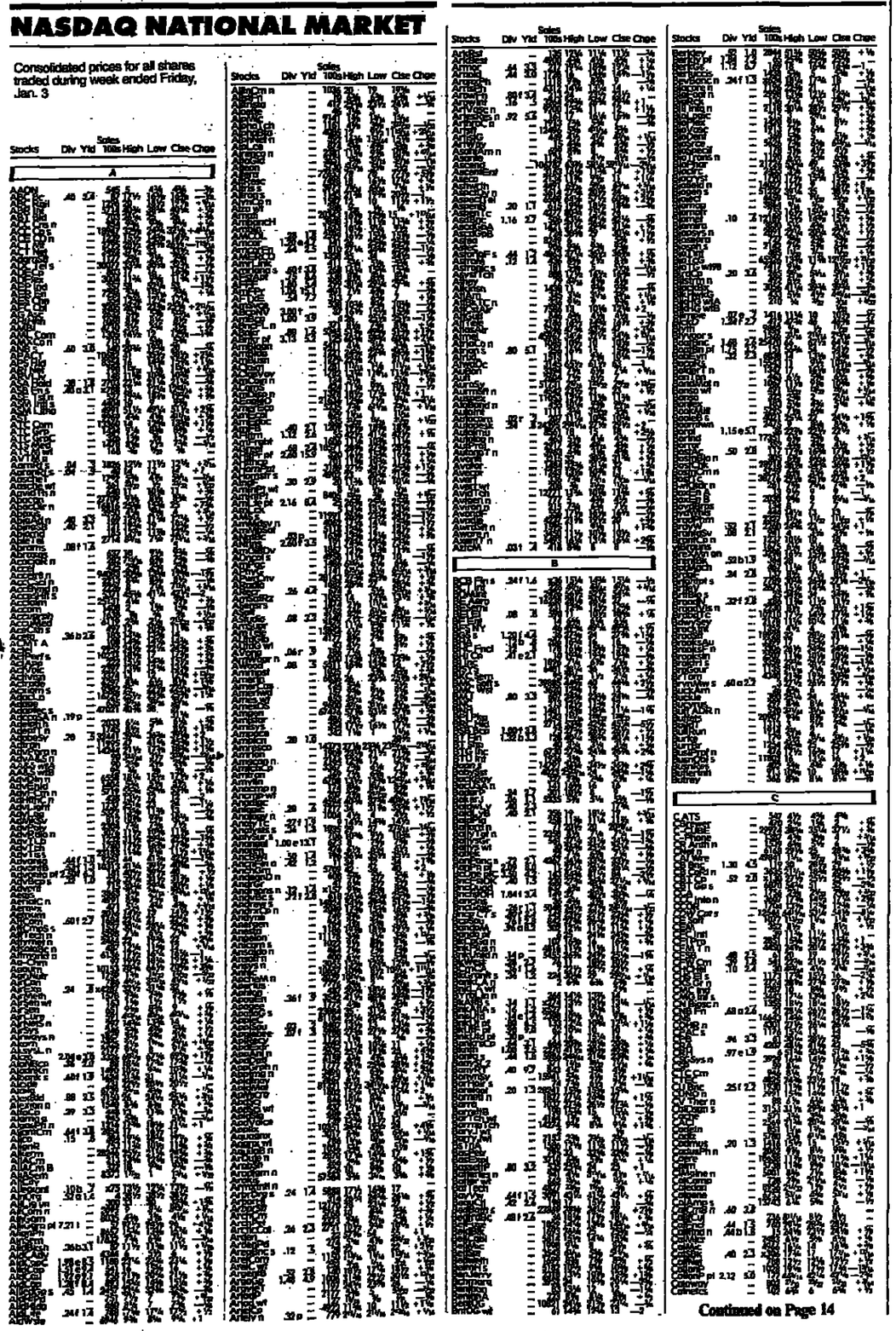
Mr. Meyer said the U.S. economy was almost ideally positioned. "We have low, stable inflation, a seven-year low unemployment rate. What's not to like?" he said.

For the Record

- **Taiwan's** trade surplus totaled $14 billion in 1996, the highest level since 1990, the state-funded Central News Agency quoted officials as saying on Sunday. The island had exports of $116.10 billion in 1996, while imports totaled $102.1 billion.
- **Volkswagen AG** plans to build a new minicar at its main factory in Germany in a bid to prove that small vehicles can be profitably built there, the Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung reported Saturday.
- **Leo Kirch**, a German media mogul, has taken advantage of a new law on television-ownership rights to raise his stake in the German television network SAT-1 to 59 percent from 43 percent, Focus magazine reported Saturday. *Reuters*

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, Jan. 3



Continued on Page 14



You can understand computers now. Or wait for your children to explain them to you later.

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, Jan. 3

(Continued)



PATRICIA WELLS AT HOME IN PROVENCE

Recipes Inspired by Her Farmhouse in France

PATRICIA WELLS AT HOME IN PROVENCE

Recipes Inspired by Her Farmhouse in France

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT FRÉSON

Hardback, 384 pages, 75 four-color photographs.

For the past thirteen years, Patricia Wells has been carrying on a love affair not with an individual, but with a region of France, a centuries-old stone farmhouse, and a cuisine. Now, in a cookbook that captures the soul of modern regional French cooking, the award-winning journalist and author invites readers to share the passion, the joy, and, best of all, the cooking of her adopted home.

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Patricia Wells has lived in France since 1980, where she is the restaurant critic for the *International Herald Tribune*. She is the author of five best-selling books: *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris, The Food Lover's Guide to France, Bistro Cooking, Simply French,* and *Patricia Wells' Trattoria.*

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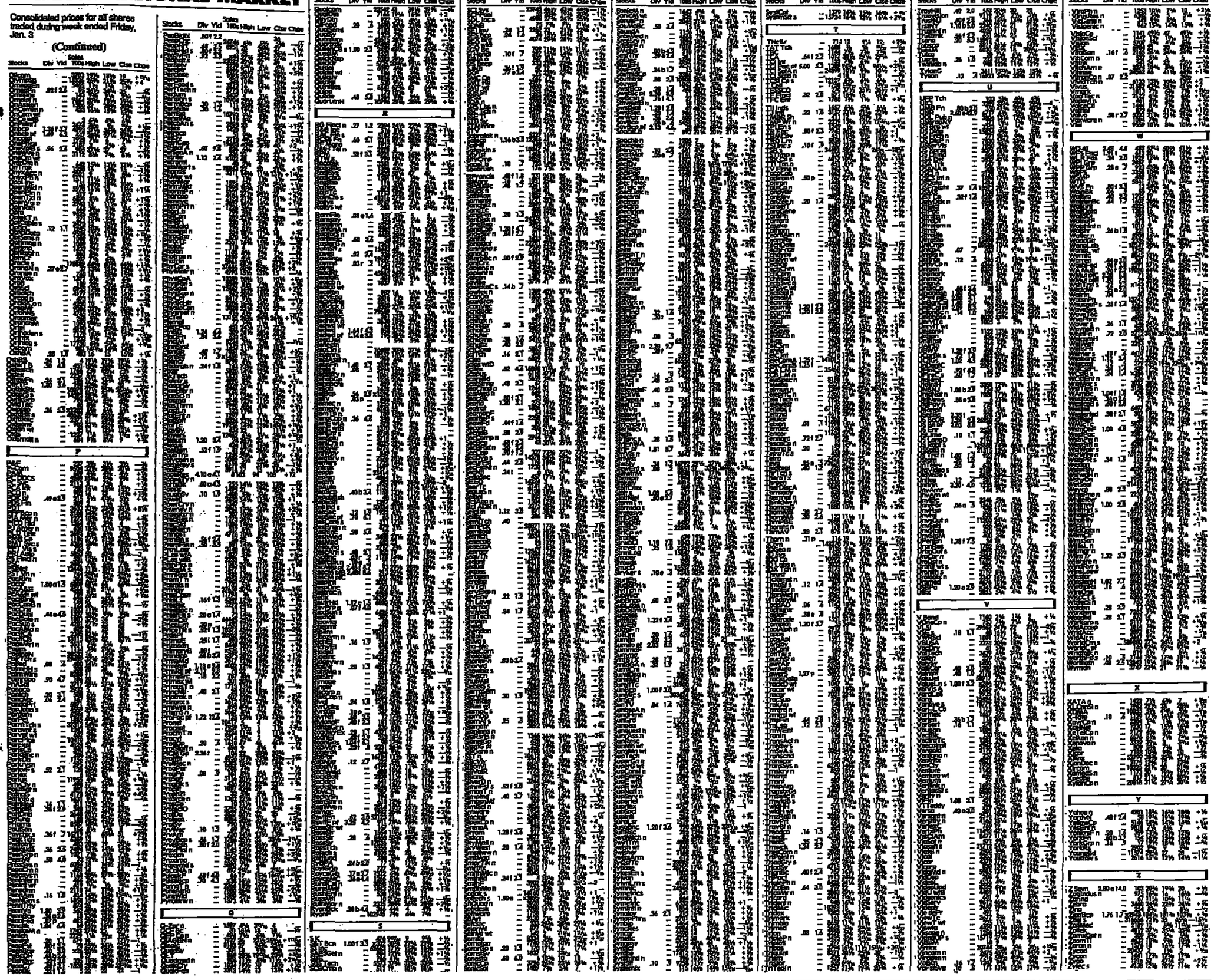
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Continued on Page 15

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, Jan. 3

(Continued)



DENNIS THE MENACE

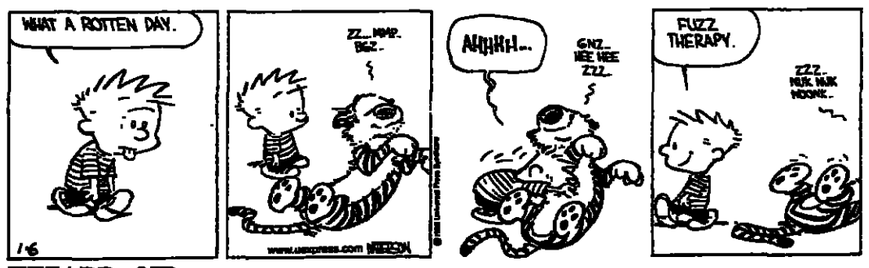


"WHICH ONE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING... THE PIANO, OR YOU?"

PEANUTS



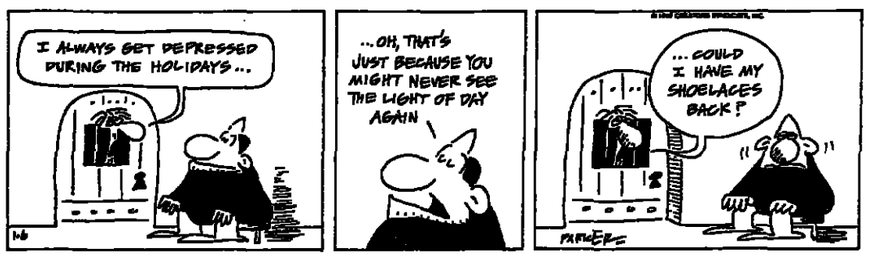
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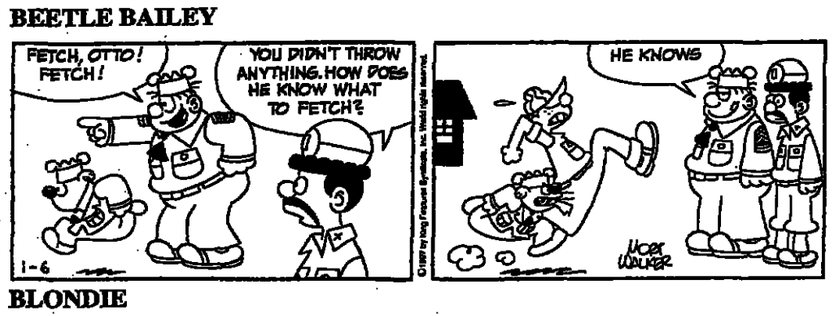
GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID



BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAR SIDE



"Man, Ben, I'm gettin' tired of this. ... How many days now have we been eatin' this trail dust?"

DOONESBURY



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLOYE
SCERS
CREBIK
ECHTIC



WHAT THE CUSTOMER GOT FROM THE CACTUS PLANT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAGIC NOTCH JEOPARDY AUTHOR
Answer: Doing 100 sit-ups a day can become this — TOUGH TO STOMACH

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SPORTS

Von Gruenigen Captures Slalom by Huge Margin

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia — Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland surprised even himself Sunday when he won a men's World Cup giant slalom by the huge margin of 1.64 seconds.

The demanding Podkoren piste suited the World Cup champion's smooth, elegant style. He skied two flawless runs for a total time of 2 minutes 13.42 seconds and his second victory of the season.

Siegfried Voglreiter of Austria was a distant second in 2:15.06 and Kjetil-Andre Aamodt of Norway third in 2:15.78.

"I was definitely not expecting to win by such a big margin," Von Gruenigen said. "It is a very difficult and bumpy hill, but such conditions have always favored me."

Alberto Tomba disappointed his many Italian fans by crashing out late on the second run in his first giant slalom appearance of the season.

Meanwhile, in Maribor, Slovenia, on Saturday, Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden won the women's slalom in driving snow and thick fog.

Wiberg led by .3 seconds after the first run. She was the last skier to leave the start house in the second run after organizers decided to reverse the starting sequence of the first 30 racers rather than only the first 15, as is done when conditions are poor.

It started snowing heavily just as Wiberg came down the run. Nevertheless, she increased her lead over her rivals. She had a combined time of 1 minute, 44.55 seconds, nearly .8 seconds ahead of Slovenia's Urska Hrovat.

Lara Magoni of Italy was third, her best result since joining the World Cup circuit in 1987. *(AP, Reuters)*



Greg Wood/Agence France-Presse

Gimelstob and Rubin celebrating Hopman victory for the United Sstates.

Mixed-Doubles Rookie Helps U.S. Take Title

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PERTH, Australia — Justin Gimelstob, a late replacement who had never played mixed doubles before this week, teamed with Chanda Rubin to give the United States its first title in the Hopman Cup tennis championship.

Gimelstob and Rubin beat Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, in the decisive mixed doubles match Saturday to earn a 2-1 victory over South Africa in the final.

Rubin defeated Coetzer 7-5, 6-2 in the opening women's singles, before Ferreira tied the match with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Gimelstob.

The unseeded Americans won the match when they broke Coetzer's serve to love after 1 hour, 47 minutes, of mixed doubles action.

Gimelstob, a 19-year old ranked 155th in the world, was called from a vacation in Miami Beach to replace Richey Reneberg, who withdrew when his wife became overdue with their first child.

The United States had reached the final twice previously, with John McEnroe and Pam Shriver in 1990 and with David Wheaton and Zina Garrison in 1991, but had not won in nine attempts.

Prize money for the event was $640,000. The winning pair shared $176,000, giving Gimelstob his biggest payday, and the runners-up collected $96,000.

• Jim Courier won his 20th career title as he beat Tim Henman of Britain, 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, Sunday in the final of the Qatar Open.

Courier lost his first two service games of the first set but fought back to 3-3. The first set turned in the 12th game when Courier took advantage of his fourth set point to win.

Courier's experience was pivotal in the deciding set. He took a 4-0 lead as Henman committed a series of unforced and sloppy errors.

Courier, a former world No. 1, will rise to No. 15 in the rankings, which should guarantee him a seeded place at the Australian Open this month. Despite the defeat, Henman will rise to a career high No. 25.

• Todd Woodbridge overwhelmed Scott Draper, 6-2, 6-1, in 57 minutes Sunday in the final of the $328,000 Australian hardcourt tennis championships.

The fourth-seeded Woodbridge used solid serving and some crunching forehands to seal his second ATP Tour title.

• Former Australian Open champion Mary Pierce beat fifth-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania on Sunday in the first round of the Sydney International, a warm-up event for the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the season.

Pierce beat Spirlea, 6-3 4-6 6-4.

• Elena Likhovtseva of Russia fought back from the brink of defeat Sunday to beat Ai Sugiyama of Japan, 3-6 7-6 (9-7) 6-3, in the final of the Gold Coast Classic women's tournament in Gold Coast, Australia. *(AP, Reuters)*

South Africa Sets High Target

Reuters

CAPE TOWN — South Africa tightened its grip on the second test against India on Sunday.

South Africa declared its second innings closed at 256 runs for six wickets, three overs after tea, to set India a target of 423 runs to win the test — and then took three Indian wickets.

Sachin Tendulkar, who made a brilliant 169 in India's first innings, was undefeated on six at the close of the fourth day as India finished on 52 for three.

Tendulkar must bat all day Monday to avoid a second defeat or help India score a further 375 runs to level the three-test series.

West Indies vs. Australia Brian Lara scored his first century of the tour Sunday as the West Indies beat Australia by seven wickets in a high-scoring limited-overs international in Brisbane.

Lara scored 102 to set West Indies on course for victory in their World Series encounter with seven balls to spare at the Gabba. Chasing Australia's 281 for four in 50 overs, West Indies reached 284 for three on the strength of Lara's efforts and an equally impressive century by Carl Hooper, who finished on 110 not out.

Mark Waugh had scored 102 for Australia and Stuart Law had contributed 93, joining with Waugh to add 145 runs for the second wicket.



Derrick Ceyrac/Agence France-Presse

Brive's David Venditti trying to drive past Cardiff's Jonathan Davis.

Italy Stuns Irish, 37-29, in Rugby

Reuters

Fly-half Diego Dominguez scored 22 points as Italy stunned Ireland by 37-29 in freezing weather in Dublin to enhance its claims for a place in an expanded Five Nations rugby union championship.

Dominguez scored the last of Italy's four tries on Saturday. He also set up the try for Paolo Vaccari that gave Italy the lead at 30-29. Vaccari and Massimo Cuttitta had each scored first half tries but Italy trailed, 18-17, at the break.

Jonathan Bell scored Ireland's only try. All its other points came from penalties kicked by Paul Burke.

• Brive of France gained a place in the European Cup final against Leicester with a 26-13 victory Sunday over Cardiff, last year's beaten finalists. David Venditti and Francois Dubosset scored second-half tries for Brive. Christophe Lamaison, whose kicking was erratic, landed five penalties.

Leicester overpowered Toulouse, the European Cup holders, by 37-11 on Saturday.

• The United States opened its tour of Wales with a 39-15 loss at club side Neath on Saturday.

Can Ronaldo Keep His Golden Feet on the Ground?

New York Times Service

By Christopher Clarey

BARCELONA — Ronaldo may or may not be the next Pele, the next Diego Maradona or the next Marco Van Basten. How can anyone know for certain what a newly wealthy and immensely talented 20-year-old striker with a primary-school education will make of his gifts?

Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima has the potential to be soccer's next "great one." In this satellite-driven, marketing-ridden age, that is enough to put the star-making machinery into overdrive.

The fact that Ronaldo, like Pele before him, is a Brazilian of humble origins, and the fact that he started this season scoring goals at a blistering pace for one of the world's most prestigious clubs, FC Barcelona, only makes the dollar and peseta signs spin faster.

"Will we control it?" said Bobby Robson, Barcelona's coach. "If it were left to the club, yes. But it's not up to the club entirely, is it?"

Robson gestured toward the door separating the tranquil lounge in which he was speaking from a room crowded with the journalists who cover this club and Ronaldo on a manic daily basis.

"How do you control that lot out there?" Robson said. "You'd like to, but you can't. They will write what they want. So you just hope that Ronaldo as a boy will have the intelligence and common sense to keep those feet on the ground."

Those feet, of course, are what have caused the commotion. In July, Barcelona bought Ronaldo for a record $20 million from the Dutch club PSV Eindhoven. In one season in the Brazilian first division and two in the Netherlands, he had scored 108 goals in 110 matches.

But despite Barcelona's enormous investment and Ronaldo's glowing international reputation, the club was still unprepared for the force of his impact.

It was not just that Ronaldo continued to score an average of a goal a match — the rate that defines superstardom in soccer. It was the way Ronaldo scored goals, weaving or bulling his way through defenses, the ball clinging to his foot.

Ronaldo has remarkable speed and skill, but what separates him from fellow forwards is his strength. At 6 feet and 172 pounds, he looks like a middleweight boxer with muscular shoulders and biceps. When opponents try to shove, hack or bump him off course, Ronaldo does not tumble melodramatically into a writhing heap. Ronaldo bumps back and dribbles on.

"I've been in soccer a long time," said Robson, 63, who coached the English national team. "And I don't think I've ever seen a player at 20 have so much."

Those who watched Pele star in and win a World Cup at age 17 might disagree. Mario Zagalo, Brazil's national coach, believes Ronaldo should learn how to pass. But even Pele concedes that Ronaldo is special.

In October, at Santiago de Compostella, Ronaldo took the ball near midfield and embarked on a 40-yard run in which he beat five players, including one who, stealing a page from American football, tried to tackle him with both arms.

By the time he scored, even the Compostella fans were screaming. "Ronaldomania" had arrived and, according to one study, the goal was replayed 160 times during the next 48 hours on the principal Spanish television stations.

Despite a thigh injury that sidelined Ronaldo briefly in November and nagging reports of record-smashing offers from other clubs, the fever has shown few signs of abating, although the 2-0 loss last month to archrival Real Madrid certainly did not increase his popularity.

THAT LOSS prompted Ronaldo to question Robson's tactics politely yet openly, and judging from the jeers for Barca's last match, he is not the only one experiencing doubts.

While the city simmers, Ronaldo's No. 9 jersey is in every souvenir shop on La Rambla, the city's most famous thoroughfare. For the All Saints' celebration in October, pastry makers put small portraits of Ronaldo on toothpicks and stuck them into their creations.

Born in Bento Riveiro, a very modest Rio suburb, Ronaldo grew up playing soccer on the streets and sleeping with a ball at night. His parents separated when he was 13, and his mother, Sonia began selling pizzas to pay the bills.

Ronaldo spent two years with a second-division club, Sao Cristovao, coached by Jairzinho, a member of the 1970 Brazilian World Cup champion.

At 16, he signed his first professional contract with first-division Cruzeiro in Belo Horizonte. He stayed one season, earning slightly more than $2,000 for scoring 54 goals in 54 games before joining PSV, receiving a $390,000 raise. At 17 he became the youngest member of Brazil's national team since Pele, but did nothing more than cheer from the bench as Brazil won the 1994 World Cup.

"Sure, it was difficult, but I learned a lot watching," he said. "I am putting it to use now, and I plan on putting it to use in France in 1998 where Brazil will have a very young and very talented team."

Barcelona recently tore up his four-month-old contract, extending it through 2006 and doubling his salary to $4 million.

The star has a house near the beach and a contract with Nike. He has an expanding entourage that includes financial advisers and new friends. What Ronaldo does not have is an attitude.

"I think in every club it is the same, that all the players are equal," he said. "We are all playing with the same goal: winning games. I like it that way: no star, everybody the same. It's only outside that it is different."

Ronaldo knows how early celebrity affected the uneducated Maradona.

"There's no doubt that we all can learn from what happened to Maradona," he said. "There are a lot of bad people in soccer, and they try to take advantage of us. It depends on the player whether he needs protection or not. I personally have a strong personality. I know what the people want from me. I know with whom I can go and talk and with whom I cannot."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	8	.750	—
New York	22	9	.710	1½
Washington	16	15	.516	7½
Orlando	11	17	.393	11
New Jersey	8	21	.276	14½
Philadelphia	8	22	.267	15
Boston	6	23	.207	16½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	28	4	.875	—
Detroit	24	7	.774	3½
Cleveland	21	10	.677	6½
Atlanta	18	11	.621	8½
Charlotte	17	14	.548	10½
Milwaukee	15	15	.500	12
Indiana	14	16	.467	13
Toronto	10	21	.323	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	8	.750	—
Utah	23	8	.742	½
Minnesota	14	18	.438	10
Dallas	10	19	.345	12½
San Antonio	9	20	.310	13½
Denver	8	23	.259	15½
Vancouver	6	26	.188	18
PACIFIC DIVISION				
L.A. Lakers	24	9	.727	—
Seattle	23	11	.676	1½
Portland	18	15	.545	6
Golden State	12	18	.400	10½
Sacramento	13	20	.394	11
L.A. Clippers	12	19	.387	11
Phoenix	10	21	.323	13

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Minnesota 23 17 33 21—94
Boston 12 31 18 22—84
M: Gugliotta 7-15 18-20 32, Garnett 8-12 0-0 16; B: Walker 9-19 0-2 18, Wesley 6-14 3-3 15. Rebounds—Minnesota 51 (Gugliotta 19), Boston 57 (Fox 14). Assists—Minnesota 21 (Gugliotta 7), Boston 20 (Wesley 8).
Atlanta 21 21 27 26—95
New Jersey 14 25 26 20—85
A: Laettner 7-15 10-10 24, Blaylock 8-19 2-2 22; N.J.: Gill 12-20 2-2 28, Bradley 8-16 2-4 18. Rebounds—Atlanta 52 (Mutombo 12), New Jersey 51 (Bradley 12). Assists—Atlanta 16 (Smith 6), New Jersey 13 (Gill 5).
Phoenix 36 20 20 28—104
Indiana 28 30 26 33—117
P: Johnson 11-19 6-6 30, Manning 6-9 2-4 14; I: Miller 11-17 4-4 32, McKey 5-9 6-8 17. Rebounds—Phoenix 41 (Williams 11), Indiana 48 (D.Davis 9). Assists—Phoenix 21 (Johnson 8), Indiana 22 (Best 5).
Orlando 16 29 12 32— 89
Chicago 26 21 33 30—110
O: Seikaly 8-14 4-6 20, Scott 6-12 2-2 15, Strong 7-18 1-4 15; C: Jordan 10-18 2-2 22, Kukoc 7-11 3-4 18. Rebounds—Orlando 37 (Seikaly 10), Chicago 61 (Rodman 22). Assists—Orlando 19 (Shaw, Armstrong 5), Chicago 30 (Harper 7).
San Antonio 26 25 23 19— 93
Denver 22 23 32 14— 91
S.A.: Maxwell 8-20 4-4 24, Perdue 5-10 2-2 12, M.Williams 6-19 0-0 12; D: L.Ellis 12-22 3-7 30, D.Ellis 8-15 2-3 20. Rebounds—San Antonio 57 (Perdue 16), Denver 60 (E.Johnson 19). Assists—San Antonio 13 (A.Johnson 9), Denver 25 (Jackson 17).
Seattle 24 28 32 24—108
Vancouver 20 27 24 23— 94
S: Payton 12-22 2-3 29, Kemp 8-10 3-3 19; V: Peeler 10-17 0-0 24, Abdur-Rahim 5-8 9-11 19. Rebounds—Seattle 46 (Kemp 12), Vancouver 45 (Lynch 15). Assists—Seattle 27 (Payton 10), Vancouver 25 (Anthony 9).
Sacramento 15 26 27 25— 93
L.A. Lakers 22 38 21 19—100
S: Richmond 12-25 5-9 33, Gamble 6-12 0-0 15; L.A.: Campbell 7-15 8-13 22, Scott 4-10 3-3 15. Rebounds—Sacramento 54 (Polynice 9), Los Angeles 63 (Campbell 15). Assists—Sacramento 21 (Hurley 7), Los Angeles 17 (Fisher 6).
Philadelphia 23 27 32 26 6—114
Golden State 22 29 24 26 14—122
P: Iverson 8-19 6-8 26, Coleman 7-26 9-15 24; G.S.: Sprewell 13-26 12-15 39, Smith 12-24 4-6 28. Rebounds—Philadelphia 52 (Coleman 14), Golden State 59 (Smith, Sprewell 11). Assists—Philadelphia 22 (Iverson 8), Golden State 32 (Mullin 13).

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 27 26 28 23—104
Charlotte 32 29 7 25— 93
W: Strickland 12-19 2-2 28, Murray 7-12 5-5 20; C: Rice 8-18 7-7 27, Curry 6-13 4-4 18. Rebounds—Washington 49 (Muresan 14), Charlotte 40 (Rice 8). Assists—Washington 23 (Strickland 11), Charlotte 27 (Bogues 11).
New York 17 19 13 22— 71
Atlanta 18 20 23 27— 88
N.Y.: Ewing 8-19 0-0 16, Houston 4-9 1-3 9, Starks 3-10 2-3 9; A: James 7-13 0-0 19, Smith 5-15 7-8 18. Rebounds—New York 53 (Oakley 11), Atlanta 44 (Mutombo 14). Assists—New York 17 (Johnson, Starks 5), Atlanta 18 (Smith 7).
Indiana 21 21 16 33—91
Cleveland 29 27 19 24—99
I: Miller 6-10 4-4 20 D.Davis 8-17 2-2 18; C: Brandon 12-24 4-6 32, Mills 8-10 2-2 20. Rebounds—Indiana 32 (D.Davis 8), Cleveland 57 (Mills 10). Assists—Indiana 22 (McKey 8), Cleveland 27 (Sura 7).
Toronto 20 20 15 19— 74
Detroit 32 28 26 30—118
T: Christie 7-12 3-5 20, Rogers 5-10 7-7 18; D: Curry 5-5 4-4 17, Hunter 4-7 6-7 15. Rebounds—Toronto 37 (Jones 7), Detroit 57 (Hill 8). Assists—Toronto 9 (Stoudamire 5), Detroit 30 (Hill, Dumars 7).
Portland 38 18 26 28—110
Dallas 28 27 25 24—104
P: Sabonis 11-14 8-14 33, Anderson 9-14 5-6 25; D: Gatling 7-14 10-16 24, Harper 7-10 1-1 15. Rebounds—Portland 58 (Sabonis 12), Dallas 55 (Green, Montross 12). Assists—Portland 21 (Anderson 11), Dallas 21 (Harper 5).
Los Angeles 23 30 22 20— 95
Houston 20 37 22 12— 91
L.A.: Vaught 9-14 0-0 20, Martin 7-15 6-6 20; H: Olajuwon 10-25 5-8 25, Barkley 9-14 2-5 23. Rebounds—Los Angeles 51 (Vaught 11), Houston 57 (Barkley 13). Assists—Los Angeles 22 (Martin 8), Houston 23 (Drexler 7).
Minnesota 23 24 22 28— 97
Milwaukee 26 24 22 19— 91
M: Gugliotta 9-24 7-8 25, Garnett 8-15 6-6 22; M: Baker 8-23 8-11 24, G.Robinson 7-19 4-4 18. Rebounds—Minnesota 50 (Garnett, Gugliotta 13), Milwaukee 55 (Baker 12). Assists—Minnesota 22 (Gugliotta, Marbury, Porter 3), Milwaukee 19 (Douglas, Perry 4).
Miami 24 18 15 23— 80
Utah 23 26 21 13— 83
M: Mourning 8-13 2-4 18, Lenard 6-13 0-0 18; U: Malone 10-22 8-14 28, Hornacek 4-9 4-4 13. Rebounds—Miami 56 (Mourning 15), Utah 46 (Malone 12). Assists—Miami 16 (Hardaway 8), Utah 23 (Stockton 11).

FOOTBALL

NFL PLAYOFFS

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY RESULTS

Green Bay 35, San Francisco 14
Jacksonville 30, Denver 27

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	25	12	4	54	133	100
Florida	21	10	9	51	118	92
N.Y. Rangers	22	16	5	49	151	120
New Jersey	21	14	3	45	102	96
Washington	17	20	4	38	109	110
N.Y. Islanders	12	19	8	32	99	113
Tampa Bay	13	20	5	31	109	124
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
Pittsburgh	21	15	4	46	148	127
Buffalo	20	15	4	44	116	105
Hartford	17	15	7	41	118	126
Montreal	15	18	8	38	131	140
Boston	15	18	6	36	113	136
Ottawa	12	19	7	31	104	115

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	23	15	3	49	118	100
Detroit	20	13	6	46	120	80
Phoenix	18	18	4	40	109	125
St. Louis	17	20	4	38	115	133
Chicago	15	21	6	36	106	115
Toronto	17	24	0	34	125	146
PACIFIC DIVISION						
Colorado	24	10	6	54	142	96
Edmonton	18	19	4	40	136	127
Vancouver	18	19	1	37	119	129
Anaheim	14	20	5	33	112	121
Calgary	14	22	5	33	102	121
San Jose	14	21	4	32	101	125
Los Angeles	13	23	4	30	104	138

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

St. Louis 1 1 0 0—2
Buffalo 0 1 1 0—2
First Period: S.L.-Courtnall 11 (Campbell, Petrovicky) Second Period: St. Louis, Campbell 14 (Murphy, Petrovicky) (pp). 3, B-Audette 13 (Grosek, Galley) (pp). Third Period: B-Zhitnik 4 (Shannon) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: S.L.- 10-12-12-1—35. B- 12-9-17-1—39. Goalies: S.L.-Fuhr. B-Hasek.
New Jersey 0 0 1—1
Ottawa 0 0 0—0
First Period: None. Second Period: None. Third Period: N.J.-Guerin 15 (Sullivan, Niedermayer) Shots on goal: N.J.- 5-3-7—15. O- 7-6-6—19. Goalies: N.J.-Brodeur. O-Rhodes.
Phoenix 0 0 0—0
Washington 2 0 1—3
First Period: W-Simon 8 (Bondra) 2, W-Pivonka 3 (Housley) (pp). Second Period: None. Third Period: W-Bondra 23 (Cote, Pivonka) (pp). Shots on goal: Phoenix 9-6-7—22. W- 11-5-8—24. Goalies: Phoenix, Waite; W-Kolzig.
Anaheim 2 0 0—2
Tampa Bay 1 1 1—3
First Period: A-Selanne 21 (Rucchin, Kariya) 2, A-Jomphe 7 (Mironov) 3, T-Ciccarelli 18 (Hamrlik, Poulin) Second Period: T-Langkow 6 (Gratton, Zamuner) Third Period: T-Gratton 14 (Hamrlik) Shots on goal: A- 9-10-7—26. T- 17-11-10—38. Goalies: A-Hebert, T-Tabaracci.
Dallas 1 1 0—2
Detroit 0 0 1—1
First Period: D-Gilchrist 6 (Nieuwendyk, Lehtinen) (pp). Second Period: D-Modano 16 (Lehtinen, Sydor) (pp). Third Period: D-Larionov 5 (Fedorov) Shots on goal: D- 5-10-5—20. D- 11-11-17—39. Goalies: D-Turek. D-Vernon.
Toronto 0 2 1—3
Edmonton 1 1 2—4
First Period: E-Norton 2 (McAmmond) Second Period: T-Gilmour 9 (Sundin, Zettler) 3, E-Smyth 19 (Lindgren, Buchberger) 4, T-Berezin 12 (pp). Third Period: E-Satan 13 (Kovalenko) 6, T-Gilmour 10 (Sundin) (sh). 7, E-Mironov 5 (Weight, Kovalenko) (pp). Shots on goal: T- 8-15-13—36. E- 14-14-11—39. Goalies: T-Cousineau, E-Joseph.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 1 1 0—2
Boston 0 2 1—3
First Period: D-Langenbrunner 10 (Hogue, Nieuwendyk) Second Period: B-Odgers 5 (Harkins) 3, D- Gilchrist 7 (Sydor, Ledyard) 4, B-Donato 13 (McCleary) (sh). Third Period: B-Bourque 4 (Harkins, Roy) Shots on goal: D- 13-11-8—32. B- 6-10-7—23. Goalies: D-Turek. B-Tallas.
Washington 0 0 1 0—1
Hartford 1 0 0 0—1
First Period: H-Janssens 2 (Godynyuk) Second Period: None. Third Period: W-Konowalchuk 7 (Bondra, Nikolishin) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: W- 11-8-9-2—30. H- 9-9-6-1—25. Goalies: W-Kolzig. H-Muzzatti.
Tampa Bay 1 1 1—3
Pittsburgh 3 2 2—7
First Period: P-Nedved 18 (Mullen, Sandstrom) 2, P-Jagr 35 (Lemieux, Olausson) 3, T-, Gratton 15 (Cross) 4, P-Lemieux 28 (Woolley) (pp). Second Period: P-Hicks 5 (Dziedzic, Barnes) 6, T-Langkow 7. 7, P-Lemieux 29 (Olausson, Francis) (pp). Third Period: P-Francis 14 (Lemieux) 9, Tampa Bay, Bannister 4 (Ciccarelli, Bradley) (pp). 10, P-, Francis 15 (Jagr, Lemieux) Shots on goal: T- 11-3-17—31. P- 6-11-7—24. Goalies: T-Tabaracci, Schwab. P-Lalime.
N.Y. Islanders 0 0 1—1
Montreal 0 1 2—3
First Period: None. Second Period: M-Richer 13 (Bordeleau, Brunet). Third Period: M-Tucker 3 (Thornton, Richer) 3. New York, McInnis 11 (Palffy, Smolinski) (pp). 4, M-, Damphousse 16 (Bordeleau, Popovic) Shots on goal: N.Y.- 12-6-9—27. M- 15-8-8—31. Goalies: N.Y.-Fichaud. M-Thibault.
Ottawa 0 2 2—4
N.Y. Rangers 0 5 1—6
First Period: None. Second Period: New York, Messier 23 (Kovalev, Karpovtsev) 2, New York, Sundstrom 16 (Gretzky, Driver) 3, O-, Cunneyworth 4 (Van Allen, Daigle) 4, New York, Sundstrom 17 (Robitaille, Gretzky) 5, New York, Robitaille 16 (Gretzky, Kovalev) 6, O-Cunneyworth 5 (Zholtok, Dackell) (pp). 7, New York, Robitaille 17 (Gretzky, Flatley) Third Period: New York, Kovalev 12 (Graves) 9, O-, Alfredsson 14 (Redden, Daigle) (pp). 10, O-Zent 3 (York, Zholtok) Shots on goal: O- 11-19-9—39. New York 11-12-5—28. Goalies: O-Rhodes, Tugnutt. New York, Richter.
Philadelphia 1 1 2 0—4
Colorado 3 1 0 0—4
First Period: C-Jones 13 (Deadmarsh, Sakic) 2, C-Corbet 7 (E.Lacroix, Miller) 3, P-, Lindros 12 (Therien, LeClair) 4, C-Jones 14 (Lemieux) Second Period: C-Keane 8 (Ricci, Miller) 6, P-Hawerchuk 9 (Desjardins, Brind'Amour) Third Period: P-Klatt 12 (Therien, Brind'Amour) 8, P-Renberg 8 (Lindros, Niinimaa) Overtime: None. Penalties—None. Shots on goal: P- 13-13-14-4—44. C- 13-9-6-1—29. Goalies: P-Snow. C-Roy.
Toronto 1 1 1—3
Vancouver 1 4 2—7
First Period: T-Sundin 25. 2, V-Bure 14 (Mogilny, Watters) Second Period: T-Craig 7 (Baker, Warriner) 4, V-Sillinger 6 (Lumme, Tikkanen) 5, V-, Gelinas 9 (Odjick, Roberts) 9:16. 6, V-Bohonos 4 (Ridley, Bure) (pp). 7, V-Odjick 4 (Bobych) (pp). Third Period: T-Sundin 26, 9, V-, Sillinger 7 (Gelinas, Roberts) 10, V-Ridley 12 (Rohlin, Naslund) Shots on goal: T- 7-8-7—22. V- 11-18-10—39. Goalies: T-Potvin, Cousineau. V-McLean.
Calgary 0 1 3—4
San Jose 2 1 0—3
First Period: S.J.-Kozlov 8 (Hawgood) 2, S.J.-, Nicholls 9 (Iafrate) (pp). Second Period: C-Fleury 17, 4, S.J.-Donovan 3 (Gill, Wood) Third Period: C-Ward 2 (McCarthy, Simpson), 6, C-Reichel 9 (Fleury) 7, C-Hoglund 10 (Iginla, Chiasson) Shots on goal: C- 6-7-12—25. S.J.- 16-14-6—36. Goalies: C-Kidd. S.J.-Hrudey.
Florida 2 3 0—5
Los Angeles 0 0 0—0
First Period: F-Niedermayer 6 (Garpenlov, Mellanby). 2, F-Mellanby 16 (Laus) Second Period: F-Dvorak 9 (Mellanby, Carkner) 4, F-Murphy 4 (Mellanby, Niedermayer) 5, F-Murphy 5 (Niedermayer, Garpenlov) (pp). Third Period: None. Shots on goal: F- 9-15-7—31. L.A.- 6-16-6—28. Goalies: F-Vanbiesbrouck. L.A.-Fiset.

CRICKET

INDIA TOUR
2D TEST, 4TH DAY
SOUTH AFRICA VS. INDIA
SUNDAY, IN CAPE TOWN

South Africa first innings: 529-7 declared; second innings: 256-6 declared
India first innings: 359; second innings 52-3.

LIMITED OVERS WORLD SERIES
AUSTRALIA VS. WEST INDIES
SUNDAY, IN BRISBANE

Australia: 281-4 in 50 overs
West Indies 284-3 in 48.5 overs
West Indies won by seven wickets
Standings: West Indies 6, Australia 4, Pakistan 4.

PAKISTAN TOUR
LIMITED OVERS MATCH
TASMANIA VS. PAKISTAN
SUNDAY, IN LAUNCESTON, AUSTRALIA
LIMITED OVERS MATCH

Tasmania: 235-6 in 50 overs
Pakistan: 236-7 in 49 overs
Pakistan won by three wickets

RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CUP
SEMIFINALS

Brive (France) 26, Cardiff (Wales) 13
Leicester (England) 37, Toulouse (France) 11

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
SEMIFINALS:

Castres (France) 23, Agen (France) 6
Bourgoin (France) 29, Narbonne (France) 6

UNITED STATES TOUR
SATURDAY IN CARDIFF

Neath 39, United States 15

INTERNATIONAL MATCH
SATURDAY, IN DUBLIN

Italy 37, Ireland 29

SKIING

World Cup Results

Results Saturday of the women's World Cup slalom race in Maribor, Slovenia:

1. Pernilla Wiberg, Sweden, 1 minute, 44.55 seconds (53.00-51.55). 2. Urska Hrovat, Slovenia, 1:45.32 (53.32-52.00), 3, Lara Magoni, Italy, 1:46.46 (54.42-52.04), 4. Elfi Eder, Austria, 1:46.54 (53.92-52.62), 5. Marlies Oester, Switzerland, 1:46.92 (54.03-52.89), 6. Sonja Nef, Switzerland, 1:47.26 (54.65-52.61), 7. Sabine Egger, Austria, 1:47.27 (54.78-52.49), 8. Ingrid Salvenmoser, Austria, 1:47.32 (54.51-52.81), 9. Katja Seizinger, Germany, 1:47.45 (55.43-52.02), 10. Martina Ertl, Germany, 1:47.56 (54.67-52.89)

Overall Standings: 1. Pernilla Wiberg, Sweden, 718 points, 2. Katja Seizinger, Germany, 563. 3. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 453, 4. Deborah Compagnoni, Italy, 395, 5. Anita Wachter, Austria, 365, 6. Urska Hrovat, Slovenia, 359, 7. Claudia Riegler, New Zealand, 289, 8. Martina Ertl, Germany, 277, 9. Isolde Kostner, Italy, 230, 10. Patricia Chauvet, France, 206.

Results of a men's alpine skiing World Cup giant slalom on Sunday in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia:

1. Michael Von Gruenigen (Switzerland) 2:13.42 (1:07.21/1:06.21), 2. Siegfried Voglreiter (Austria) 2:15.06 (1:07.91/1:07.15), 3. Kjetil Andre Aamodt (Norway) 2:15.78 (1:07.99/1:07.79), 4. Gerhard Koenigsrainer (Italy) 2:15.93 (1:08.38/1:07.55), 5. Ian Piccard (France) 2:15.96 (1:08.08/1:07.88), 6. Hans Knauss (Austria) 2:15.97 (1:08.01/1:07.96), 7. Heinz Schilchegger (Austria) 2:16.00 (1:08.61/1:07.39), 8. Thomas Grandi (Canada) 2:16.26 (1:08.24/1:08.02), 9. Jure Kosir (Slovenia) 2:16.27 (1:08.49/1:07.78), 10. Matteo Nana (Italy) 2:16.29 (1:08.21/1:08.08).

TENNIS

HOPMAN CUP
PERTH, AUSTRALIA
FINAL

United States 2, South Africa
Chanda Rubin, U.S., def. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, 7-5, 6-2; Wayne Ferreira, South Africa, def. Justin Gimelstob, U.S., 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin, U.S., def. Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA
SEMIFINALS

Todd Woodbridge (4), Australia, def. Mikael Tillstrom, Sweden, 6-7 (6-8), 7-6 (7-3), 6-3. Scott Draper, Australia, def. Jeff Tarango, U.S., 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

FINAL

Todd Woodbridge (4), Australia, def. Scott Draper, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.

NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC
IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
FINAL

Marion Maruska, Austria, def. Judith Wiesner (2), Austria, 6-3, 6-1.

GOLD COAST CLASSIC
HOPE ISLAND, AUSTRALIA
QUARTERFINAL

Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (1), Netherlands, def. Maria Luisa Serna, Spain, 6-1, 6-4.

SEMIFINALS

Elena Likhovtseva (3), Russia, def. Schultz-McCarthy 6-4, 6-4; Ai Sugiyama (6), Japan, def. Anne-Gaelle Sidot, France, 6-2, 6-4.

FINAL

Elena Likhovtseva (3), Russia, def. Ai Sugiyama (6), Japan, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3.

QATAR OPEN
IN DOHA, QATAR
SEMIFINALS

Tim Henman, Britain, def. Hicham Arazi (Morocco) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; Jim Courier (8), U.S., def. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 6-4, 6-2.

FINAL

Jim Courier (8), U.S., def. Tim Henman, Britain, 7-5, 6-7, (5-7) 6-2.

SOCCER

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Espanyol 0, Compostela 2
Extremadura 2, Atletico Madrid 4
Hercules 1, Sporting Gijon 1
Oviedo 2, Logrones 1
Racing Santander 1, Tenerife 2
Real Sociedad 1, Zaragoza 0
Deportivo Coruna 0, Barcelona 1
Celta Vigo 0, Valladolid 2

ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION

Atalanta 1, Verona 0
Cagliari 1, Piacenza 0
Fiorentina 3, Napoli 0
Inter 3, Roma 1
Parma 1, Juventus 0
Perugia 1, Reggiana 3
Udinese 4, Sampdoria 5
Vicenza 2, Bologna 0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
SUNDAY, IN VINA DEL MAR, CHILE

Chile 7, Armenia 0

ENGLISH F.A. CUP
THIRD ROUND
(Premier league teams unless stated)

Arsenal 1, Sunderland 1
Blackburn 1, Port Vale (D1) 0
Chelsea 3, West Bromwich (D1) 0
Liverpool 1, Burnley (D2) 0
Middlesbrough 6, Chester (D3) 0
Norwich (D1) 1 Sheffield United (D1) 0
Nottingham Forest 3, Ipswich (D1) 0
Plymouth (D2) 0, Peterborough (D2) 1
QPR (D1) 1, Huddersfield (D1) 1
Reading (D1) 3, Southampton 1
Sheffield Wednesday 7, Grimsby (D1) 1
Stevenage (ML) 0, Birmingham (D1) 2
Wolverhampton (D1) 1, Portsmouth (D1) 2
Wrexham (D2) 1, West Ham 1
Charlton (D1) 1, Newcastle 1
Wycombe (D2) 0, Bradford (D1) 2
Everton 3, Swindon (D1) 0
Manchester United 2, Tottenham 0

F.A. CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

Peterborough vs. Wrexham or West Ham
Charlton or Newcastle vs. Nott. Forest
Blackburn vs. Coventry or Woking
Luton or Bolton vs. Chesterfield or Bristol City
Birmingham vs. Stoke or Stockport
Queens Park Rangers or Huddersfield vs. Barnsley or Oldham
Portsmouth vs. Reading
Carlisle or Tranmere vs. Sheffield Wed.
Everton vs. Bradford City
Hednesford or York vs. Middlesbrough
Chelsea vs. Liverpool
Gillingham or Derby vs. Notts County or Aston Villa
Leicester or Southend vs. Norwich
Arsenal or Sunderland vs. Cristal Palace or Leeds
Brentford or Manchester City vs. Watford or Oxford
Manchester U. vs. Crewe or Wimbledon.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 6

TENNIS, Sydney — International men's and women's tournaments (to 12); Auckland — BellSouth Open men's tournament in (to 12); Hobart — Tasmania International women's tournament (to 12)
NORDIC SKIING, Bischofshofen, Austria — World Cup ski jumping

TUESDAY, JAN. 7

CRICKET, Toowoomba — Australian Country XI v West Indies; Hobart — Australia v Pakistan, World Series Cup.
RUGBY UNION, Pontypridd, Wales — Pontypridd v United States

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

SWIMMING, Beijing — FINA World Cup event (to 9)
TENNIS, Melbourne — Colonial Classic exhibition event (to 11).
BADMINTON, Taipei — World Grand Prix event (to 12).
FREESTYLE SKIING Mount Tremblant, Canada — World Cup event (to 9).

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

BIATHLON, Ruhpolding, Germany — World Cup event (to 12).
CRICKET, Kimberley, South Africa — Griqualand West v India (day/night).
BASKETBALL, Men's EuroLeague second preliminary round.
DIVING, Wellington — Grand Prix event (to 12).
GOLF, Melbourne — Victoria Open (to 12). Carlsbad, California — Mercedes Championship (to 12)

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

ALPINE SKIING, Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria — World Cup women's downhill (2)/super-giant slalom (to 12).
CRICKET, Perth, Australia — West Indies v Pakistan, World Series Cup (day/night). New Plymouth — New Zealand Academy XI v England.
SPEED SKATING, Heerenveen, Netherlands — European Championships (to 12).

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

SOCCER, World Cup African zone qualifiers: Group 1: Kenya v Nigeria; Group 2: Namibia v Liberia, Tunisia v Egypt; Group 4: Cameroon v Angola, Zimbabwe v Togo; Group 5: Burundi v Gabon, Ghana v Morocco.
ALPINE SKIING, Chamonix, France — World Cup men's downhill/slalom/combined (to 12)
FREESTYLE SKIING, Lake Placid, New York — World Cup event (to 13).
NORDIC SKIING, Nagano, Japan — World Cup cross-country (and 12). Engelberg, Switzerland — World Cup ski jumping (and 12). Saalfelden, Austria — World Cup Nordic combined event (and 12).
SPEED SKATING, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — World Cup event (and 12).
CRICKET, Bloemfontein, South Africa — Free State v India (to 13).
RUGBY UNION, Cardiff — Wales v United States.
ATHLETICS, Canberra — International meeting.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

SOCCER, World Cup South American zone qualifiers at various sites. African zone qualifiers at various sites.
CRICKET, Perth — Australia v West Indies, World Series Cup (day/night).
ATHLETICS, Amorebieta, Spain — IAAF World Cross Challenge.

SPORTS

Heat Fall Short of Road Mark

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Miami Heat's road winning streak came to an end at 14 games — two short of the NBA record — when Tim Hardaway's 3-point attempt fell short at the buzzer in an 83-80 loss to the Utah Jazz.

The loss Saturday night was the first on the road since Nov. 15 for Miami, which was trying to match or beat the Los Angeles Lakers' 16-game streak of the 1971-72 season.

Karl Malone scored 28 points for the Jazz, and Bryon Russell hit two free throws,

NBA Roundup

stole the ball and recovered a turnover in the final 1:42.

Russell recovered a turnover by Hardaway and was fouled with 15.4 seconds to play. He made one of two foul shots to give the Jazz a three-point lead, but Miami still had a chance to tie. After dribbling away most of the remaining time, Hardaway's desperation 3-point attempt was short.

Alonzo Mourning had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Voshon Lenard added 18 points for the Heat, whose six-game overall winning streak was also snapped.

Malone, who scored 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the first half, was just 1-for-11 from the field in the second half.

Pistons 118, Raptors 74 Michael Curry tied a career high with 17 points, including 13 in the first half, as host Detroit went ahead by 22 on the way to crushing Toronto.

The 44-point victory margin tied the second-largest in Pistons' history and was the second-worst loss in Toronto's two seasons. The Raptors shot just 32 percent, the worst in franchise history. Doug Christie led all scorers with 20 points for Toronto.

Blazers 110, Mavericks 104 In Dallas, Arvydas Sabonis scored a career-high 33 points, and Kenny Anderson added 25 as Portland completed a three-game sweep through Texas with a victory over Dallas.

The 7-foot-3-inch (2.2-meter) Sabonis went 11-for-14 from the field and pulled down 12 rebounds, overpowering the Mavericks' frontcourt to lead Portland to its fourth straight triumph. Chris Gatling scored 24 points for the Mavericks, who have dropped six of their last seven games.

Clippers 95, Rockets 91 Loy Vaught scored 20 points and led a fourth-quarter rally that helped Los Angeles snap a 20-game, 10-year losing streak at The Summit in Houston. The Rockets have lost six of their last nine games, including five at home, after starting the season 21-2. Hakeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Timberwolves 97, Bucks 91 In Milwaukee, Tom Gugliotta scored 25 points, and Kevin Garnett added 22 as Minnesota, after trailing for most of the game, rallied past Milwaukee.

Bullets 104, Hornets 93 In Charlotte, Rod Strickland scored 16 of his 28 points in the second half, and Washington took advantage of a third-quarter collapse by Charlotte.

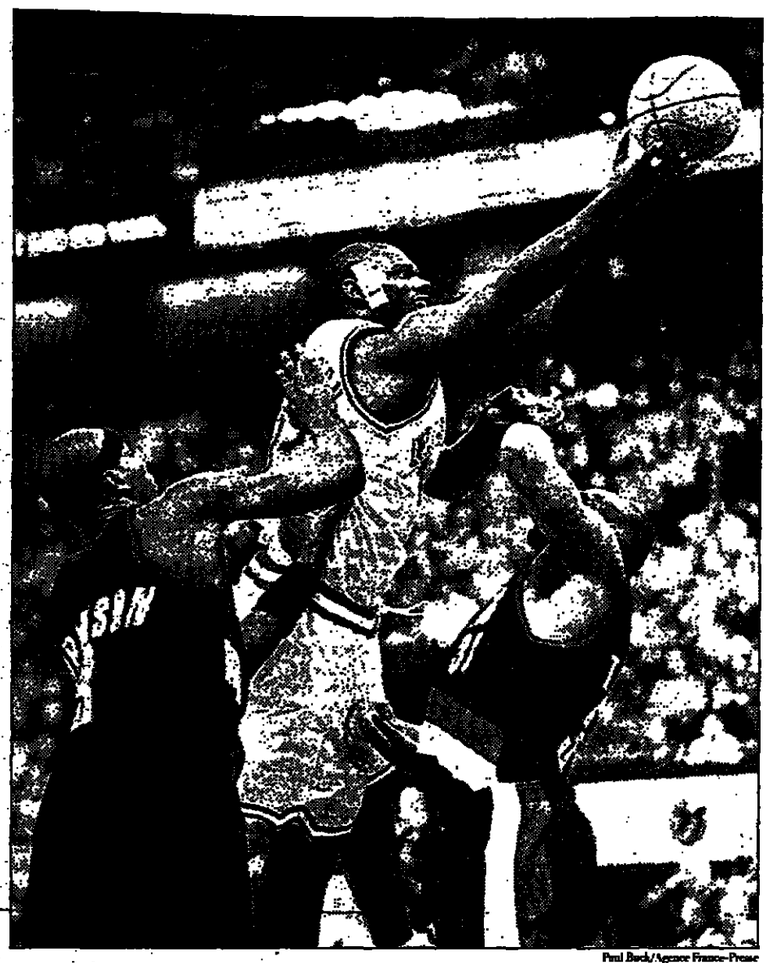
Washington rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit by outscoring Charlotte, 28-7, in the third quarter. The Hornets missed 16 of their 18 field-goal attempts in the period, including their last 13.

Cavaliers 99, Pacers 91 Terrell Brandon scored 21 of his 32 points in the first half, as Cleveland beat visiting Indiana, delaying Larry Brown's 600th NBA coaching victory.

Cleveland, which has won 9 of 11 games, had all five starters in double figures for the second straight night.

Hawks 88, Knicks 71 Henry James made five 3-pointers and scored 19 points against New York, as Atlanta extended its home winning streak to 11 games.

The Hawks took control with a 21-6 spurt to start the second half, with Steve Smith scoring nine and James six. That gave Atlanta a 59-42 lead, and the Knicks never got closer than 10 the rest of the way. Patrick Ewing scored 16 points but was the only Knick to score in double figures.



Paul Buck/Agence France-Presse

Dallas's Jamal Mashburn driving between Cliff Robinson, left, and Gary Trent.

Yanks Leading Luxury-Tax Race

By Murray Chass
New York Times Service

Not surprisingly, the New York Yankees hold the early lead in the luxury-tax sweepstakes. With only 17 players signed, they have already exceeded the $51 million threshold that could trigger the new tax next season.

But the Yankees were expected to be there. The Florida Marlins were not, and they are right there with the Yankees.

Following a flurry of expensive free-agent signings, the Marlins have already qualified for a visit from baseball's new tax man. Based on current payrolls, the Atlanta Braves, the Cleveland Indians and the Baltimore Orioles are the other leading contenders for the maximum contingent of five teams that will pay the luxury tax in its first season.

With $5 million in benefits costs included, the Yankees already have a payroll of $52.8 million and are followed by the Marlins at $51.2 million, the Braves' $50.9 million, the Indians' $49.4 million and the Orioles' $49 million. Just behind that group are the Toronto Blue Jays at $46.6 million and the Chicago White Sox at $44.8 million.

Although the lawyers who are drafting the final language have not settled on all of the details of the key components of baseball's new collective bargaining agreement, the basics of the luxury tax have been established. In the first year of the new economic system, the teams with the highest payrolls — up to a maximum of five teams — will be assessed a 35 percent tax on the portions of their payrolls over $51 million.

Until now, payrolls were calculated based on players' salaries for that particular year. Now the tax mavens will use the average annual value of each player's contract. And instead of using the 25 players on the major league roster, plus those on the disabled list, as of Aug. 31, the payroll people will use a team's 40-man roster throughout the entire season.

If the new method had been in effect last year, the Marlins would have had a $36.7 million payroll, which would have been 16th among the 28 teams. But that was before Alex Fernandez, Moises Alou and Bobby Bonilla added $18 million to the mix. Their current total of $51.2 million is for only 16 players.

For the Yankees, Andy Pettitte and Derek Jeter are not eligible for arbitration, but Bernie Williams is, meaning the club can figure on adding more than $5 million to its payroll for their star center fielder, through arbitration or a negotiated contract. Last year Williams won a $3 million salary.

The Braves, whom the Marlins are trying to catch in the National League East, have signed only 11 players and face arbitration with Mark Wohlers, Javier Lopez and Ryan Klesko. The Indians, on the other hand, have signed virtually all of their front-line players and have no one eligible for arbitration among the 24 unsigned, younger players.

Mike Mussina's yet-to-be-determined salary will send the Orioles beyond the tax-triggering threshold. One of 27 unsigned Baltimore players, Mussina earned $4 million last season when he won 19 games.

With 13 players signed, the Texas Rangers have a $39.4 million payroll, and they still must sign Ivan Rodriguez, Dean Palmer and Roger Pavlik, whose 1996 salaries totaled $7.25 million.

The White Sox, who have 11 signed players and a $44.8 million payroll, still must sign Roberto Hernandez and Wilson Alvarez, whose eligibility for salary arbitration will enable them to raise their combined $4.93 million income significantly.

Under the new system, the Yankees would have had a $66 million payroll last year. They will break $60 million this year, but will not reach $66 million unless they trade for one or two high-salaried players during the season. They could reduce their payroll by trading Cecil Fielder and the $7,237,500 average annual value of his contract.

Schott 'Sold' Cars to Reds

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The names of Cincinnati Reds executives and relatives were among those that General Motors said Marge Schott, the Reds' owner, used to falsify 57 auto sales at her dealership, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

The people whose names were used were unaware of the situation and were not involved, the newspaper said in its report Saturday.

The team's acting chief executive, John Allen, is among the eight current and former Reds' staffers on the list, which has been submitted as part of a complaint GM has filed with the Ohio Motor Vehicle Dealers Board.

GM told Schott a year ago that her Chevrolet dealership was not meeting company sales standards. In June 1995, she reached a settlement with GM under which she was to surrender the dealership if it did not meet its quotas in two of the final three quarters of 1995 or the first two quarters of 1996.

An affidavit filed by a GM auditor said that Allen was sold a four-door Lumina for $16,035 in September 1995. The car was actually sold to Schott Car and Truck Rental on Feb. 19, 1996, according to the affidavit.

Allen said he did not receive a car and declined further comment.

A Camaro Z-28 that the wife of the Reds' general manager, Jim Bowden, allegedly bought in September 1995 was one of 24 vehicles falsely reported as sold to customers in that month. The vehicles actually went to an auction a year later.

"We bought a Chevy Lumina Van," Bowden told the newspaper, adding that the couple knew nothing about a Camaro Z-28.

Ross Joins Reeves as Candidate for Falcons

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Dan Reeves described himself as "very interested" in the Atlanta Falcons' coaching vacancy after meeting with the team's president, but Bobby Ross has also emerged as a leading candidate for the job.

Reeves was considered the early front-runner for the Atlanta job after he was fired by the New York Giants last month, but Ross joined the picture when he resigned as coach of the San Diego Chargers on Friday because of disagreements with general manager Bobby Beathard.

The Falcons are looking for a successor to June Jones, who was dismissed last month after a 3-13 season.

Reeves was born in Americus, Georgia. Ross has coached at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta.

Smith is expected to meet with Ross in the next few days and may have to make a quick decision, because the St. Louis Rams are also interested in talking with Ross and the New Orleans Saints may be as well.

At San Diego, Beathard and Ross had several differences over personnel. Beathard wanted some of the younger players to see more action, and was not happy with Ross's two main coordinators, Ralph Friedgen on offense and Dave Adolph on defense. San Diego finished 26th in the NFL in total offense and 23d in total defense. *(NYT, WP)*

Rangers Get a Milestone Victory, 6-4

Gretzky Has 4 Assists as N.Y. Wins 2000th Game in Franchise History

The Associated Press

Wayne Gretzky assisted on four second-period tallies, Mike Richter continued his hot goaltending, and the New York Rangers won the 2,000th game in franchise history as they beat the Ottawa Senators, 6-4.

Gretzky's four assists on Saturday night tied the Ranger record for assists in one period set by former star Phil Goyette on Dec. 20, 1963, against the Boston Bruins.

Richter extended his winning streak to a career-high 11 games and his unbeaten streak to 15 games as the Rangers reached their milestone triumph. The Rangers' NHL record since they started playing in the 1926-27 season is 2,000-1,971-736.

"When Wayne is out there behind the net he just makes things happen," said Gretzky's linemate, Luc Robitaille, who scored two of the goals. The other wing on the Gretzky line, Niklas Sundstrom, bagged the other two Gretzky-assisted goals. Gretzky now has 1,814 career assists.

Flames 4, Sharks 3 Jonas Hoglund scored with 4:22 remaining to complete a third-period Calgary rally in San Jose.

Ed Ward and Robert Reichel had scored earlier in the period as the Flames, who trailed 3-1 after two periods, broke a four-game losing streak. Theoren Fleury scored the other Calgary goal, his 17th of the season.

Panthers 5, Kings 0 Gord Murphy scored twice in the second period, and John Vanbiesbrouck tuned up for his starting assignment in the All-Star Game with his 25th career shutout as visiting Florida breezed to victory over Los Angeles.

Scott Mellanby had a goal and three assists to help the defending Eastern Conference champs end a four-game

NHL Roundup

winless streak. Vanbiesbrouck earned his second shutout of the season with 28 saves.

Penguins 7, Lightning 3 In Pittsburgh, Mario Lemieux scored twice and had three assists as the Penguins extended their unbeaten streak to eight games.

Ron Francis also scored two goals, and Jaromir Jagr had a goal and assist to raise his career point total to 600 in 481 games. The line of Lemieux, Francis and Jagr has accounted for 49 goals in 20 games since it debuted on Nov. 22.

Bruins 3, Stars 2 Ray Bourque scored with 36 seconds remaining to lift Boston to a comeback victory over visiting Dallas.

Bourque drilled a 40-footer through a screen to beat Dallas's rookie goaltender, Roman Turek, for his fourth goal of the season. Ted Donato scored the tying goal while the Bruins were shorthanded, killing a five-minute major penalty in the second period.

Whalers 1, Capitals 1 Steve Konowalchuk scored with just 4:14 remaining in regulation as Washington gained a tie in Hartford.

Konowalchuk, whose overtime goal had beaten the Whalers last Wednesday, fired from the right circle over goaltender Jason Muzzatti's glove. Hartford's fourth-line center, Mark Janssens, scored the first goal of the game 14:53 into the opening period.

Canadiens 3, Islanders 1 In Montreal, Jocelyn Thibault stopped 26 shots, and Stephane Richer had a goal and an assist as the Canadiens extended their season-high unbeaten streak to six with a victory over the New York Islanders.

Avalanche 4, Flyers 4 In Denver, Trent Klatt and Mikael Renberg scored two minutes apart in the third period as Philadelphia rallied to tie Colorado and extend the season's longest unbeaten streak in the NHL to 16 games. Philadelphia trailed, 3-1, after the first period and by 4-2 at the second intermission.

Colorado's right wing, Claude Lemieux, returned for his first game since tearing a groin muscle on Oct. 5, but the Avalanche lost another player to injury. All-Star center Joe Sakic suffered a deep cut on the back of his lower left calf in a scramble for the puck.

Canucks 7, Maple Leafs 3 Mike Sillinger scored twice as Vancouver beat visiting Toronto. The triumph was the Canucks' second straight after a losing streak of four games.

Canada Defeats U.S. in Junior Hockey Final

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Marc Denis turned away all 30 American shots, and Boyd Devereaux and Brad Isbister provided the goals to give Canada a 2-0 victory Saturday and a record fifth straight World Junior Ice Hockey Championship.

It was the seventh title in eight years for Canada and its 10th overall, while the Americans earned their best finish to go along with two bronze medals.

Devereaux, the hero in Canada's 3-2 semifinal victory over Russia, scored the first goal at 8:38 of the second period.

Trevor Letowski dug the puck out from behind the American net and got it out front to Devereaux, who snapped a long wrist shot past a badly screened Brian Boucher.

Devereaux was a sixth-round pick of the Edmonton Oilers in last year's North American National Hockey League draft.

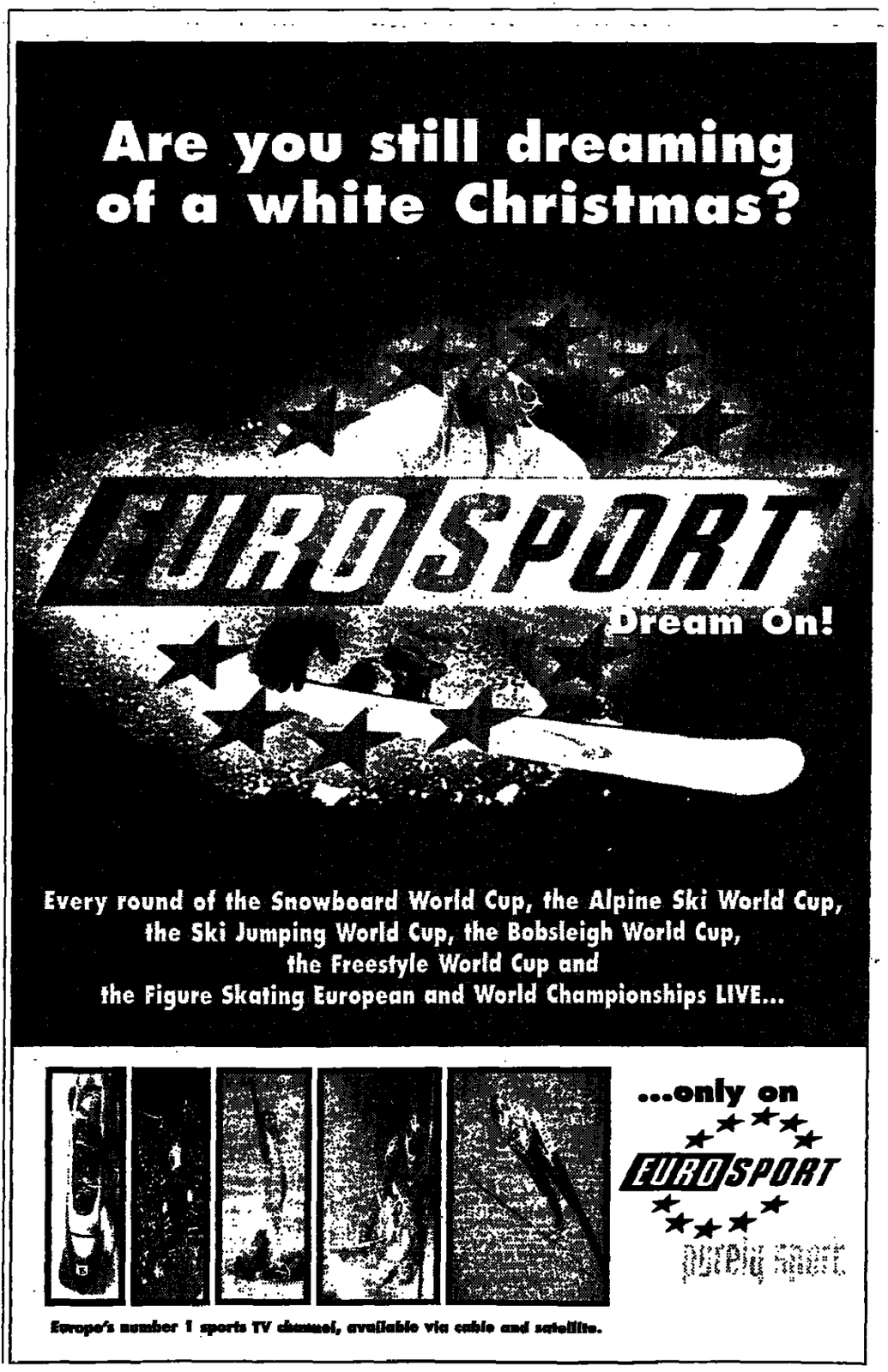
Isbister scored the game's only other goal, 3:09 into the third period.

It was the first all-North American final in the history of the championships. For the second year in a row, Russia settled for the bronze, with a 4-1 victory over the Czech Republic.



Ivan Sekretarev/Reuters

Daniel Briere, left, leaping into Brad Isbister's arms after a Canadian goal.



WORLD ROUNDUP

Dakar Rider Dies

RALLYING A French motorcyclist died in the Dakar-Agades-Dakar Sunday. Jean-Pierre Leduc was the 34th death in the race since began as the Paris-Dakar rally in 1979. He was killed in a crash in the second stage.

Leduc, 45, fell from his KTM bike after 247 kilometers of the 505-kilometer stage through Mali from Toumbacounda to Kayes.

"Doctors reached him 20 minutes after the fall, but nothing could be done," a spokeswoman said. She said Leduc, who was married with a child, apparently fell while riding alone. Doctors rushed to the accident after another competitor found him and sent a distress call. *(Reuters)*

Becker vs. Tax Inspectors

TENNIS Boris Becker told a German magazine that he is also thinking of moving out of Germany soon because of what he calls unjust harassment by tax investigators.

Tax investigators raided Becker's home in Munich last month and took away several files. Becker told Der Spiegel that his parents' home was also searched.

Becker said he had paid all of his taxes and had no idea what the investigators were after. *(AP)*



Antti Aimo-Koivi/The Associated Press

Myllyla taking the World Cup cross-country race in Russia.

Ice Cold Victories

NORDIC SKIING Russia's Yelena Vaelbe won the women's world cup 15-kilometer classic cross-country race near St Petersburg in temperatures of minus 11 degrees centigrade to take the overall lead in the World Cup.

Finland's Mika Myllyla won the World Cup 30-kilometer freestyle cross-country race Saturday near St Petersburg. *(Reuters)*

Alpine skiing, Page 16.

Williams to Face Judges

FORMULA ONE Frank Williams said Sunday that he would appear before Italian judges next month to face a manslaughter charge arising out of the death of Ayrton Senna at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

"I will be there, and I will be defending my company and myself," Williams said.

The case is expected to be heard in February at Imola.

Williams and five other members of the team have been charged with manslaughter in Senna's death, which occurred at Imola when his Renault-Williams car hit a wall. *(Reuters)*

Heart Attack Kills Star

SOCCER Hedi Ben Rekhissa, a Tunisian international defender, died Saturday night after suffering a heart attack during a friendly between his club, Esperance, and a French team, l'Olympique Lyonnais. He was 26. *(Reuters)*

FOOTBALL Tyronee (Tiger) Bussey, a Colorado linebacker who remained committed to making the team even when seriously ill, died at a Detroit hospital Friday after a long battle with leukemia. He was 20. *(AP)*

Patriots Rout Steelers, 28-3, as Martin Runs Wild

Packers Crush 49ers, and Broncos Fall to Jaguars

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Massachusetts — Curtis Martin burst out of the fog Sunday and carried the New England Patriots into the AFC championship game.

The Pittsburgh native slashed for a team playoff record 166 yards and three touchdowns, including a 78-yarder, as the Patriots shredded the Pittsburgh Steelers' celebrated defense for a 28-3 victory.

The Patriots, playing their first home playoff game in 18 years, will play at

NFL PLAYOFFS

home again in eight days next Sunday against Jacksonville, which beat the Denver Broncos on Saturday. A Super Bowl berth goes to the winner. New England beat the Jaguars here 28-25 in overtime in the fourth game of the year.

"We didn't have enough," the Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "They were the better team."

A heavy mist shrouded the field all through the game, and there was no sighting of the Jerome Bettis who battered Indianapolis for 102 yards in Pittsburgh's first-round win.

Martin scored on a two-yard run in the first quarter, a 78-yarder in the second and a 23-yarder in the fourth.

Pittsburgh's defense was ranked second in the NFL, but was outplayed by a New England defense that has allowed just four touchdowns in its last six games.

With the score 21-3, the Steelers had a chance to get back into the game with a first down at their 36-yard line, but Mike Tomczak threw an interception to Lawyer Milloy. Then with the ball at the New England 15, Willie Clay picked off another toss by Tomczak with 9:04 left.

Kordell Stewart replaced Tomczak periodically, but he lost two yards on his first play and was harassed constantly. All 10 of his passes were incomplete.

The Patriots, the AFC's highest scoring team, dominated the first half, building a 21-0 lead. They scored two touchdowns on their first six plays with gains of 34, 53 and 78 yards. Martin had 109 rushing yards by halftime and Drew Bledsoe completed his first seven passes for 123 yards.

With the Patriots controlling Bettis, the Steelers' run-oriented attack stalled and they punted on seven of their eight first-half possessions. On the eighth, they turned the ball over on downs.

The Steelers only avoided their first playoff shutout since 1947 when Norm Johnson kicked a 29-yard field goal with 3:50 left in the third quarter.

The Patriots' domination impressed Cowher. "They came out and played with a lot of emotion today," the Pittsburgh coach said.

■ A Trouncing in the Mud

David Maraniss of the Washington Post reported from Green Bay, Wisconsin:

The weather was on their side, and so was Desmond Howard. And that was more than enough for the Green Bay Packers on Saturday as they dashed and slogged their way through the mud to defeat the San Francisco 49ers, 35-14.

The victory propelled the Packers into the NFC championship game next Sunday, in which they will be the host within the wintry confines of Lambeau Field for the first time since the glory years of Vince Lombardi 30 years ago.

Call it the Rain Bowl. By the second quarter, the uniforms of both teams were caked in mud and drenched by a cold and relentless January downpour.

"It was awful out there, really," said the Packer quarterback, Brett Favre, his smile betraying the fact that he was talking about the weather, not his team's performance. "I'm still kind of cold. The more we played the worse it got. It was cold. It was raining. It was hard to hold the ball."

Favre and the Packer coach, Mike Holmgren, tossed out their game plan and ran the ball far more than they had expected. With Edgar Bennett churning his way for 80 yards and two touchdowns, Favre threw only 15 passes, 45 fewer than the last time the teams played.

San Francisco's quarterback, Steve Young, who started the game with sore ribs and a heavy dosage of painkillers, had to leave after the second series. And the 49ers' outstanding defensive left tackle, Bryant Young, injured his neck in the first half and was taken to a hospital.

Howard, whose spectacular punt returns sparked the Packers during a five-game winning streak at the end of the season, set the course of the game in the first quarter with two electrifying runs.

The first was a 71-yard touchdown dash on which he wove through five potential tacklers before out-sprinting the punter for the goal line. Howard expected the 49ers to punt the ball away from him after that, but the second punt came right to him again, and he responded by darting 46 yards to the 49ers 7 yard line, setting up Favre's only touchdown pass, a four-yarder to Andre Rison.

For much of the game, the play was sloppy and disjointed, a string of miscues, injury timeouts, referee huddles and short drives. But the Packers put the game away in the third quarter with the only full-fledged drive of the day, marching 72 yards in seven minutes, with Bennett finally diving into the end zone.

"The field was bad, but it was bad for both clubs," said the 49er coach, George Seifert. "We have no excuses. They just beat us."

■ No Miracle for Elway

Tom Friend of The New York Times reported from Denver:

John Elway looked into a mirror on Saturday, and saw Mark Brunell. He is young, he prefers to throw on the dead run, it takes five men to tackle him and he likes the cardiac comeback.

On Saturday, at a crisp Mile High Stadium, the tables were turned — and the Denver Broncos' tables, in particular, were turned over. They had the best record in the American Football Conference — with 13 lovely victories — but the Jacksonville Jaguars miraculously defeated them, 30-27.

The Broncos led, 12-0, fell behind, 23-12, closed to within 3 points, and then saw Brunell answer each time with impromptu scrambles and perfectly aimed third-down lobs. One of those lobs, to Jimmy Smith, gave the Jaguars a 30-20 lead, and although Elway at age 36 looked a lot like a 25-year-old, the final onside kick did not work.

"This will hurt," the Broncos' coach, Mike Shanahan, said when it was over. "This will hurt for a long time."

The Broncos could not execute two extra points, were whistled for 12 men on the field and could not stop the Jaguars, a two-year-old expansion team, from scoring on their last six possessions.

Natrone Means gained 140 yards on 21 carries — every one a bulldoze — and Brunell completed 18 of 29 passes for 245 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 44 yards on seven attempts.



Brian Snyder/Reuters

The Patriots' quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, heading for the turf Sunday after he was upended by Chris Oldham of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Elway was 25 of 38 for 226 yards and two scores.

The Jaguars took a 23-12 lead with a touchdown and a field goal in the third quarter, and it was up to Elway once again to rescue the Broncos. Forty times over his career he has led Denver to comeback victories in the fourth quarter or overtime, and now he had no choice but to dial up another heart-stopper.

It began well. Elway went 61 yards in a matter of minutes on a drive that finished with Terrell Davis plowing in for the touchdown.

It was 23-20 with 7:37 remaining, and Denver needed one more stop. But Brunell improvised his way to Jacksonville's drive of the year, and another seven points.

Elway had no timeouts, but plenty of gall. He engineered an 80-yard drive in 1:49. The touchdown was typical. He rolled right, pumped three times and darted a pass to McCaffrey.

The subsequent onside kick, though, was a horrible one — a punch straight ahead by Jason Elam that landed easily in the hands of Le'Shai Maston.

Four Players Are Evicted as Parma Topples Juventus



Fabrizio Giovannozzi/The Associated Press

Mauro Milanese of Napoli, left, battling with Rui Costa of Fiorentina.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Mario Chiesa scored the only goal of the game Sunday as Parma beat Juventus, the Italian league leaders, 1-0. Most of the other leading sides won to cut Juve's lead at the top of the table.

Chiesa scored after just two minutes of a nerve-ridden, violent match in which each side had two players evicted.

Juve's Moreno Torricelli went first just before the interval. Chiesa, strike partner Alessandro Melli and Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane were all thrown out of the match for rough play between the 64th and 66th minutes.

"It was an ugly match, but the referee was right every time he showed his red card," said Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach. "How many times do I have to repeat that Juventus has not won the title yet?"

Unfashionable Vicenza beat Bologna, 2-0, and is in second place, three points behind Juventus. Marcelo Otero scored both goals, and Bologna's Kennet Andersson was evicted in the second half.

Sampdoria and Internazionale are four points behind Juventus.

Roberto Mancini scored a hat-trick as Sampdoria beat Udinese by 5-4. Vincenzo Montella netted twice, as did Amoroso for Udinese.

Inter beat Roma, 3-1, in Milan. Youri Djorkaeff received a two-minute standing ovation for a scissor-kicked goal that gave the Milan club a 2-0 lead.

Milan sunk to ninth after losing 3-0 in Rome to Lazio.

Pierluigi Casiraghi sprung Milan's off-side trap with a pass that sent Giuseppe Signori to gallop to round Milan keeper Sebastiano Rossi and score.

Casiraghi scored the second with a waist-high volley that hit both posts before crossing the line in the 45th minute. Alessandro Grandoni headed in the third soon after the restart.

In Perugia, the Russian striker Igor Simutenkov scored his first two goals of

SOCCER ROUNDUP

the season to help last-place Reggiana beat Perugia, 3-1, for its first victory of the season. Perugia fired coach Giovanni Galeone last month. He will be replaced by the former Parma trainer Nevio Scala on Sunday.

ENGLAND Manchester United, the FA Cup holders, overcame injury-hit but spirited Tottenham, 2-0, Sunday in a hard-fought third round match at Old Trafford.

The game between the two most successful clubs in the 126-year history of the competition tipped United's way in the 50th minute when Paul Scholes scored with a well-placed angled shot.

David Beckham wrapped the match up 10 minutes from the end with a superb goal direct from a long-range free kick.

Robert Lee scored against his old club, Charlton, but the first division team fought back to draw, 1-1, with Newcastle. Lee, who played more than 300 times for the Londoners before joining Newcastle, put Newcastle ahead after 33 minutes with a fortuitous goal. He fluffed his first attempt completely — inadvertently wrong-footing his marker — before poking the ball into the net.

Twelve minutes from the end of play, Mark Kinsella cracked a right-foot shot into Newcastle goal from 25 meters to level the score.

SPAIN Real Madrid regained its lead in the Spanish first division Sunday thanks to a solitary goal from teenager Raul Gonzalez against Athletic Bilbao.

Real moved two points ahead of Barcelona, 1-0 winners at third-placed Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Real had the best of the game but was fortunate to take three points as Raul's 61st-minute winner took a deflection.

The game could be played only because of the undersoil heating in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. The club had to appeal to fans to stop bombarding players and officials with snowballs.

The other Madrid team, Atletico, won 4-2 at struggling Extremadura. Daniel Prodan, a Romanian who was making his Spanish debut, scored the opening goal as Ateltico took a 4-0 lead.

Substitute Juan Pizzi scored in the 87th to give Barcelona victory at La Coruna. It was Deportivo's first league defeat of the season.

Ronaldo, without a goal in five matches, twice hit the woodwork for Barcelona. *(AP, Reuters, AFP)*

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